

Table with international exchange rates for various countries including Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, etc.

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,808

Simon Garfield on the politics of HIV

...ing Aids ... again

...ean weather

Online

A music festival live on the Web

G2 page 10/13

Patrick Donovan

When S... a share of...

The people

Child benefit payments to be handed to private sector □ £100m contract could go to pools firm

Lilley starts welfare revolution

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

PAYMENT of child benefit to seven million families is to be handed over wholesale to the private sector under plans to be unveiled next week by Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary.

probable bidders for the work. But one trade union leader last night forecast interest in the lucrative child benefit contract — likely to be worth up to £100 million a year — from companies such as lottery and pools promoters.

It is much more difficult to envisage privatisation of means-tested income support, which costs £1.7 billion a year to administer.

state scheme, but one administered by a private contractor. He will also argue that families will see no difference and will remain able to collect the benefit in cash at a post office.

"change programme" — the drive to slash the £3.3 billion social security administration costs by a quarter over three years.

It was recently integrated into child benefit. Chris Kirk, DSS section secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, a clerical grades' union, said: "Child benefit is a wholly discrete area of work — perfect for privatising."

One name already being touted is that of Electronic Data Systems (EDS), which holds several large government computer contracts. The EDS corporation was founded by Ross Perot, the former United States presidential candidate, but was taken over by General Motors in 1984.

Involvement of such a company in sensitive benefit matters would cause anxiety among welfare groups. The Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) said it would want solid reassurances on confidentiality, on monitoring of the contract and on what such privatisation would mean to families.

Birt faces World Service showdown

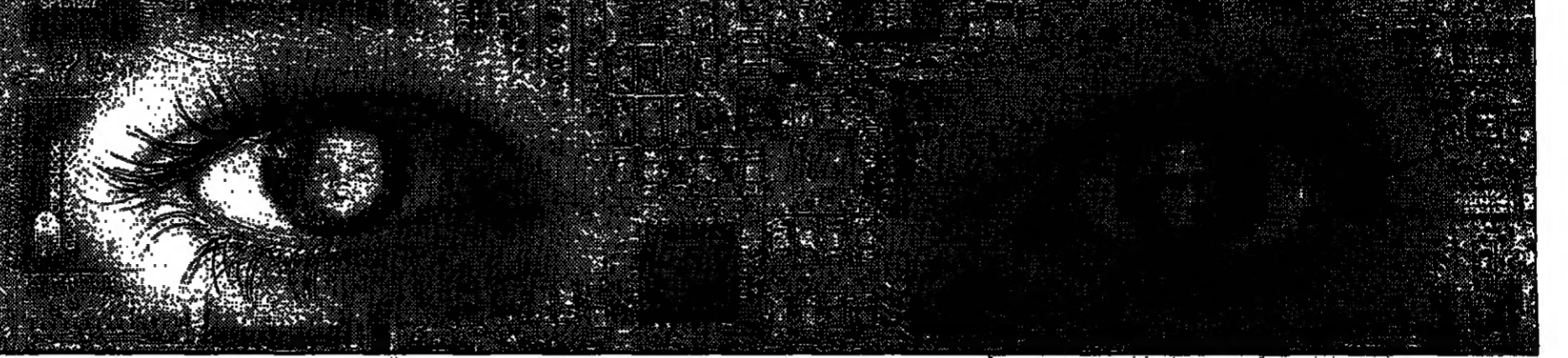
Martin Kettle

JORN BIRT, the director general of the BBC, has been summoned by Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind to justify his controversial World Service reorganisation plans at a face-to-face meeting next week amid mounting anger at Westminster yesterday.



The world keeps listening, page 5 Letters, page 8

The motion says the World Service is a jewel in the BBC's crown and calls for guarantees of its programming and "unrivalled reputation for impartiality" will be maintained.



Soul Catcher photomontage illustrating the 'immortality chip'. It holds out the prospect of replacing such things as holiday snaps with direct playback of our experiences

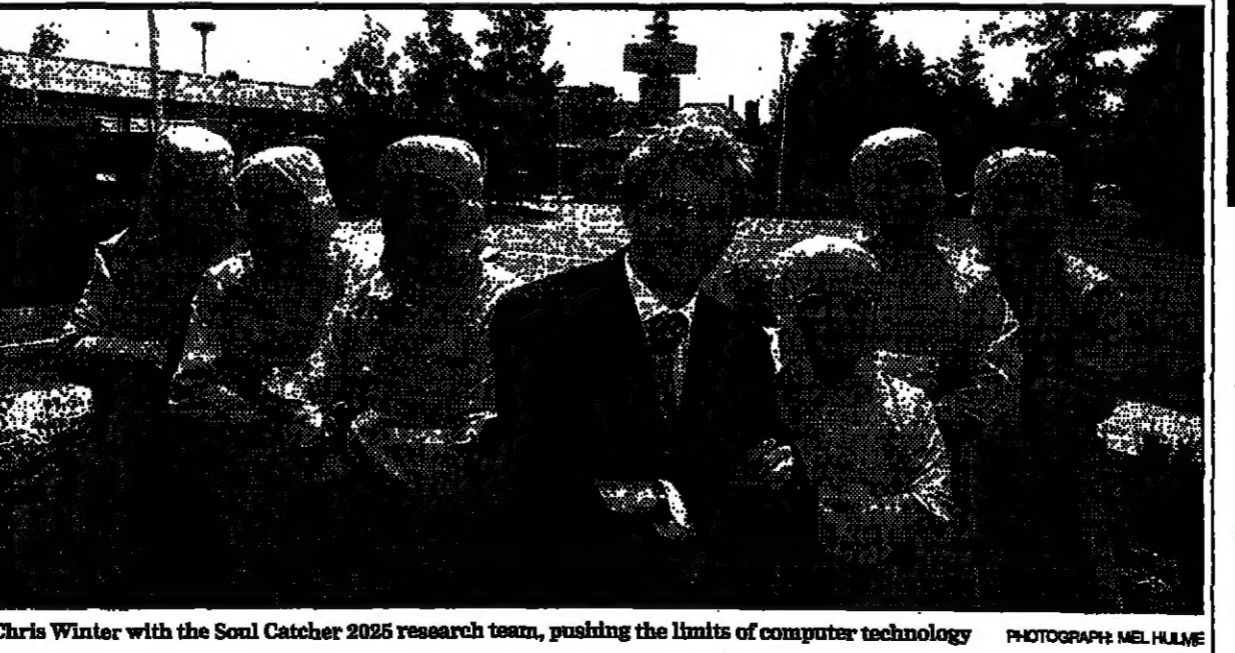
From cradle to grave on memory chip

British Telecom scientists see prospect of people being fitted with 'black box' mind recorders, with playback of experiences through computer links. Stuart Millar and Bill O'Neill report

COMPUTER technology will have advanced so far in the next 30 years that people will be able to record their lives on "immortality chips", allowing them to relive their own and other people's memories, according to British Telecom scientists.

and biochemistry, and leader of the BT research team, said yesterday that the potential applications for such technology were virtually limitless. "To use an analogy, we have split the atom but the bomb has not yet been built."

kind of digital representation demanded. But we can afford to be optimistic." Professor Steven Rose, of the Open University, said: "The problem is that the information recorded on the chip would be meaningless. You have to be able to understand what's going on in not just hundreds of thousands of nerve cells, but millions of nerve cells across the brain."



Chris Winter with the Soul Catcher 2025 research team, pushing the limits of computer technology PHOTOGRAPH: MEL HULME

Inside

Government hopes that a reviving economy will erode Labour's poll lead...

Britain

Government hopes that a reviving economy will erode Labour's poll lead...

World News

New trade rows between Britain, its EU partners and the US loom as Congress legislates to punish companies investing in Iran and Libya.

Finance

The biotechnology sector was under a cloud after signs that a £143 million rights issue by British Biotech had flopped.

Sport

Twickenham made a dramatic U-turn to try to save England's place in the Five Nations Championship, with new talks set up.

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ONCE IN A MILLENNIUM OFFER. UP TO 10% advertisement for Abbey National's Millennium Bond.

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Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

2 NEWS

Sketch

Old gaffers get call to the bar



Simon Hoggart

HAVE terrible news, tidings which bode ill for our once great nation.

But first, a Labour MP introduced a bill which would encourage people to give evidence against anti-social neighbours.

Next, Britain's leading anti-social neighbour, Mr Kenneth Clarke, who gave his address as 11 Downing Street, rose to the despatch box.

Or rather, he belted up to the bar. Debates between the Chancellor and Gordon Brown now resemble a row between two old gaffers in a pub. They don't like each other much, they disagree on most things, but there's nowhere else to drink, and in truth, if one of them moved, the other would miss him.

The overall effect is almost affectionate. When the deputy speaker shouted, many times, "Order!" you expected one to say, "Fim of best and a packet of scratchings — and you'd better ask that miserable bugger what he'll have, too."

The debate centred on the leaked document which appears to show that civil servants are pondering the privatisation of the welfare state.

Mr Clarke was astounded that anyone should pay the faintest heed to this scrap of paper, which had been written by "a Grade 7". Was this a man, a woman, or a computer? Mr Clarke did not say. The implication was that such affairs were as irrelevant as the Treasury canteen's recipe for toad-in-the-hole.

Middle-ranking officials (they had been promoted from "the kids in the office" which is what he'd called them on the BBC) were forever looking at different scenarios for the future.

This did not turn their contemplations into government policy. Why, the paper was not even about the welfare state.

It concerned only staffing

requirements in the Treasury. Of course, of course. And if the Department for Education were to consider whether to train squads of hangmen for the next decade? This would not, incontrovertibly not, mean they were considering whether to introduce capital punishment to restore discipline in schools.

Dennis Skinner wondered why Mr Clarke had abstained on the vote to increase Cabinet ministers' salaries to £103,000.

The Chancellor made a rare mistake. "The figure you quoted I shall not receive, as it does not come into effect until the next parliament," he said.

The implication — that after the election he would not be in Government — took a while to sink into Labour skulls. They are not at their best in economic debates. When they did realise they started muttering, then jeering and finally roaring.

Mr Clarke airily announced what he had really meant: "When I come back here it won't be for the money, but for the pleasure of keeping Gordon Brown away." Yes, and if you believe that, you probably also believe they're not trying to privatise the welfare state.

Mr Brown made a feeble reply. He abandoned jokes which he usually does well, he was tediously obsessed with the leaked document, and he allowed noisy Tory backbenchers to throw him off course.

But who needed jokes? As I gazed, the horrifying truth became visible. Dr Michael Fabricant was sitting behind the Treasury ministers. He has been promoted to glory.

Fabricant! The most obnoxious MP in Westminster, the man who has spent years sucking up to every minister visible. The fellow who once complimented Angela Browning on her figure, in public! He is now parliamentary private secretary to Mr Michael Jack, a Treasury minister.

Last week in the Commons tea room he demanded of half a dozen Labour MPs "why does Hoggart keep picking on me?"

"Because you keep writing to him, you pillock," replied Dale Campbell-Savours.

I really wonder why I bother. Congratulations, Mike, may the laurel wreath rest easy on your wig.



Bob Dole boards his plane after a two-day swing through California. Now it seems the only place he can go is out of the race altogether

'Dump Dole' revolt spreads

Party leaders say step aside

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

THE threat of mutiny spread through the Republican Party yesterday as senior leaders turned on the crashing campaign of presidential candidate Bob Dole. One prominent figure publicly urged him to withdraw before next month's convention in San Diego.

The first signs of a Dump Dole movement came yesterday when Republican activist Arianna Stassinopoulos Huffington broke ranks to demand Mr Dole step aside and be replaced by a new nominee.

"Increasingly there are people talking about, 'How can we convince Bob Dole to withdraw?'" said the Cambridge-educated Ms Huffington, a close associate of House Speaker Newt Gingrich and a leading figure in Washington Republican circles.

She suggested party elders approach Mr Dole and say: "Listen, for the sake of the party, for the sake of keeping our majorities in the House and the Senate, we need to find an excuse — health, whatever — and bring somebody else on."

Her remarks came amid whispers from dozens of top Republicans, panicked that Mr Dole's campaign is in free fall. Many have written off his chances of beating President Clinton in November.



Colin Powell: Former chairman of the US joint chiefs of staff

Revered as the most popular man in America, and still the object of Republican fantasies as a potential saviour of the 1996 campaign, he refuses to campaign for Mr Dole. Criticising the candidate's no-show at a black civil rights gathering: "I think it would have been useful to present his views. But apparently his schedule would not permit him to do that." Has also attacked Mr Dole's position on abortion and affirmative action.



William Buckley: Founder of the National Review and grand old man of US conservatism

"As things are now, Mr Dole threatens to be an entirely lost figure in American history. A loser does not necessarily remain invisible. Barry Goldwater [campaigning in 1964 for the Republicans] permanently imprinted his priorities on the body politic. So did George McGovern [the Democrat who lost in 1972]. Bob Dole threatens to leave no trace whatever."



Alphonse D'Amato: Tough senator from New York, co-chairman of the Dole campaign, and a key Republican attack dog

Bill and Hillary Clinton's chief tormentor on the Whitewater affair. He says: "Right now Mr Dole's campaign is lacking a very powerful economic message, which I know they're working on." He also accuses him of being "unfocused" and of making a "generational" mistake when he recently caused a furor by saying nicotine was not addictive.



Ralph Reed: Executive director of the Christian Coalition, which exercises a virtual veto over Bob Dole's choice of running mate

"While we understand Senator Dole's desire to close the gender gap, we stress that he must remain sensitive and committed to the needs of social conservatives, who could turn out in record numbers in November and provide him with the margin of victory." On Monday, he accused Mr Dole of moving in the "wrong direction" on abortion.



Arianna Stassinopoulos Huffington: Greek-born, British-educated and now a Republican hostess

Came to prominence in 1994 when her millionaire husband, Michael Huffington, spent a good chunk of his personal fortune trying and failing to acquire a seat in the US Senate. Long an opponent of Mr Dole's, she is now willing to say so "on the record, because I feel that those who care for the party don't want to see a débâcle in November."

Review

Dancing well, behaving badly

Judith Mackrell

Enter Achilles 2 Dance/BBC2

WATCHING the TV version of Enter Achilles, DV8's dance about hard-man culture, it sometimes feels as if we've slipped into a grim episode of Men Behaving Badly. There's the same amplified grunting, the same shots of uncontrollably twitchy groins, the same gleefully silly disco dancing and the same beseeching pub interludes. But unlike the dim prattlers that constitutes most of Tony and Gary's misadventures, DV8 explore far more brutal issues of homophobia and violence.

Carla van Gool's film, which has just won the Special Prize for Arts and Music at the Prix Italia, is the latest in a series of highly successful adaptations of DV8's work. The company's stark physical imagery creates instant television effect and director Lloyd Newson, has become very experienced at making work that translates for the camera. You get on screen all the emotional and physical risk-taking that fuelled the original stage piece.

Yet it is only a translation, and part of what's been lost is the work's original ease in sliding between reality and fantasy. The stage version was performed in a kind of surreally shrunken pub interior, whose cramped proportions intensified the men's bullish energy and their lack of ease in their own skins. It provided a setting too where we didn't make distinctions between the characters' imaginations and fact.

The film, however, is located in a real pub, in real time and space. This not only dulls the work's fantastical horror, it also begs far more literal questions about the characters — where they are coming from, why their explosions of violence are so sudden, why they are so irredeemably vile.

On stage, Newson's view of masculinity already appeared thwarted by an over-simplifying polemic but the film exaggerates it. Under the camera's gaze, the passage where an inflated female doll is raped and mutilated turns particularly offensive.

On the other hand Van Gool does take very clever advantage of the camera's ability to switch between viewpoints and her film makes illuminating jumps between the characters' perspectives which a stage director could only clumsily set up. The camera also gives sharp and thrilling focus to the dancers' physical skills. Eloquently lit and intuitively edited, the film deserves its prize.

Enter Achilles heads a 2 Dance season, which also features Ross MacGibbon's adaptation of Yolande Smith's Swinger, a film deftly sympathetic to the original, not least because it cuts it by half.

Based on Roland Barthes' sassy, cerebral A Lover's Discourse, Swinger splices actor's speech with dance and the film cleverly tracks between two separately lit and furnished spaces.

MacGibbon knows how to film choreography, cutting with the rhythms of a phrase, and giving musical as well as dramatic emphasis to certain movements in close-up. You can see him intently exploring the craft of putting dance on to this small screen.

Latest polls show Mr Clinton maintaining a 20-plus point lead.

Republican officials insisted yesterday that the chances of Mr Dole being forced to quit are slim. He has an overwhelming majority of committed delegates at the August convention, and he is the only viable candidate acceptable to all wings of the party.

"Colin Powell isn't going to touch it with a 10ft barge-pole," said Kevin Phillips, an analyst and Republican party expert, referring to the retired general and Gulf war hero who is still regarded as a

svivour who could trounce Mr Clinton.

All of Mr Dole's initial primary challengers are non-starters. The one who performed best, firebrand Pat Buchanan, is too extreme for party moderates and would fare even worse than Mr Dole against Mr Clinton, according to polls.

Even if it is a political impossibility, the mere fact that Republicans are fantasising about dropping Mr Dole shows the depth of despair felt by his campaign.

The candidate is under fire from all sides. Moderates ac-

use him of caving in to the religious right on abortion, failing to send the right message on race and causing huge damage with remarks doubting the addictive power of tobacco.

Gen Powell has led the charge, attacking him for failing to attend last week's convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People, the nation's oldest civil rights organisation. Mr Dole blamed a scheduling problem and later said the left-leaning head of the association was trying to "set me up".

Hardliners have also been angered by Mr Dole's selection on Tuesday of Congresswoman Susan Molinari, an abortion rights supporter, to deliver the keynote speech in San Diego. Ralph Reed, director of the mighty Christian Coalition, said the choice was a step in the "wrong direction".

But the greatest criticism is reserved for Mr Dole's deficiencies as a candidate. "He doesn't have a clue," wrote conservative columnist Charles Krauthammer.

Republicans were particularly embarrassed by a joint

appearance on CNN's Larry King Live by Mr Dole and his wife Elizabeth. Clearly irritated by her husband's inability to stay "on-message", she repeatedly grabbed his hand and cut him off when he threatened to wander off the point.

Mr Dole's handlers have now ruled that he does not answer spontaneous questions from reporters, except during set piece interviews.

Pessimistic advisers are fearful that even the selection of a high-energy running mate will not help, serving instead to highlight his failings.

Germany wants to end role as EU's paymaster

Europe's largest economy seeks cut in long-term contributions

Denis Staunton in Berlin

GERMANY served notice yesterday that it plans to end its role as Europe's paymaster. It wants its annual contribution to the European Union cut and an overall spending cap put on next year's EU budget.

"Germany is the largest economy in the European Union so we can afford a high

contribution. But it is not acceptable in the long term that one country bears around two-thirds of the net costs," Theo Waigel, the finance minister, said in an interview with the mass circulation Bild newspaper.

The EU knows that Germany wants to negotiate a reduction in its contribution, he said. The issue was on its agenda and he was confident of securing a cut.

Germany's gross annual payment to the EU is £20 billion. Less than half of this is returned to Germany in the form of subsidies. Its net contribution of £12 billion in 1994 was more than twice as much as that of the other net contributors — Britain, the Netherlands, France and Italy — put together.

The EU calculates each country's budget contribution on the basis of its gross national product, but German politicians complain that the cost of reunification and economic difficulties ought to be taken into account too.

The present contributions system will remain in force until 1999, by which time Germany will have to pay 30 per cent more than it does today. But Mr Waigel is determined to start renegotiating the system as soon as possible.

"We'll start talks at a European level next year on a fairer contributions system so that it is clear well before the current agreement ends how the financing of the European Union will be organised in the future. This will be about a mechanism that will protect individual member states from a one-sided

and excessive burden," he said.

But before that, Germany hopes to limit its contribution by imposing spending limits on the EU budget, similar to those being undertaken by many member states in order to qualify for membership of a single currency.

"The EU must give complete support to the member states' consolidation efforts. That means that we'll be calling for a strict spending limit on the 1997 EU budget. We'll have to have intensive talks about that in Brussels shortly — with the European Parli-

ment too," Mr Waigel said.

Germany is eager to shape the agenda for next year's Inter-Governmental Conference which will determine the future shape of the EU. But Mr Waigel's statement is the clearest indication to date that Born is no longer prepared to subsidise its partners as generously as in the past.

The expansion of the EU to include former Warsaw Pact countries, such as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, will place a new burden on EU finances which Germany does not want to shoulder alone.

THE PROMS BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING.

PROMS HAYDN'S 'THE CREATION' OPENS PROMS 96, JULY 19 AT 7.30PM. EVERY NIGHT OF THE PROMS IS LIVE ON RADIO 3.

1550

Unemployment falls to five-year low, vacancies reach seven-year high and wage rises decline in 'flexible' labour market

Double joy for Clarke on jobs

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

GOVERNMENT hopes that a reviving economy will erode Labour's poll lead were boosted yesterday when official figures showed job vacancies at a seven-year high and unemployment dipping to a five-year low.

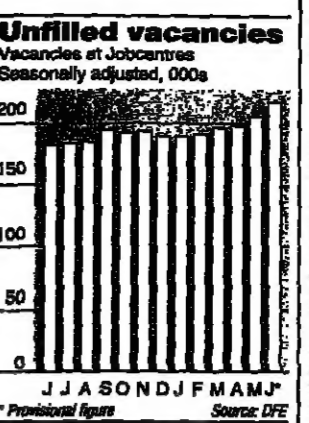
Wage pressures are easing, and the number of posts advertised in JobCentres is the highest since October 1989. According to the Office for National Statistics, 14,300

people left the dole queue last month, taking the jobless total to 2,122,000, 7.7 per cent of the workforce. Job vacancies were the highest recorded since October 1989. City economists said the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, was enjoying a rare combination of a lower unemployment and subdued inflation, with the statistics office data showing the annual rate of pay increases falling from 3.75 per cent in May to 3.5 per cent last month — the first fall for over two years.

Simon Briscoe, UK economist at brokers Nikko Europe, said: "Contrary to the fears of idle world analysts and the Bank of England, these figures show that you can have strong growth and low inflation." The fall in the pace of pay rises — which wrong-footed analysts who had pencilled in a rise — is the result of Britain's new flexible labour market, according to Adam Cole at HSEC James Capel. "It is blindingly obvious that something has happened in the last 15 years," he said. "At least in the labour market the 'holy trinity' of a supply-side revolution are being borne out."

Mr Cole pointed to the fall in trade union power and the rise in contract working to explain the failure of lower unemployment to translate into higher wages. The financial markets seized on the upbeat figures as a welcome relief from recent gloom on Wall Street. They said the evidence of muted pay pressures vindicated Mr Clarke's decision to cut base rates by a quarter-point to 5.75 per cent last month. Minutes of Mr Clarke's meeting with the governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, before the June 5 cut show that he overruled Bank

advice to leave rates on hold. "These figures are excellent news — and further vindication — for Mr Clarke," said Mr Cole. But Labour said the figures demonstrated increased job insecurity, and highlighted separate figures from the Labour Force Survey which showed a rise in unemployment between March and May. Shadow employment spokesman Michael Meacher said: "The claimant unemployment figures mask the reality of an economic slowdown and a growing crisis in the labour market."



Murdoch takes TV control in America

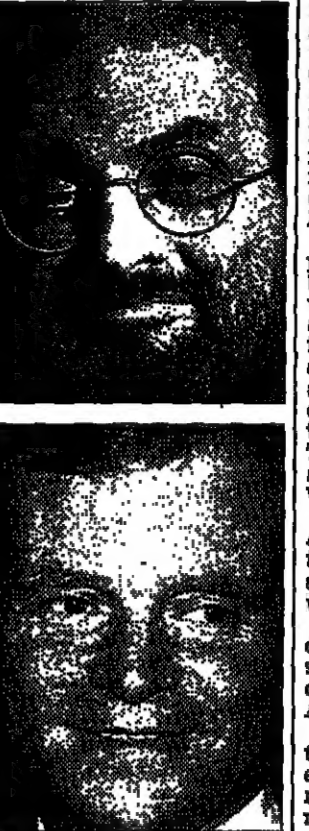
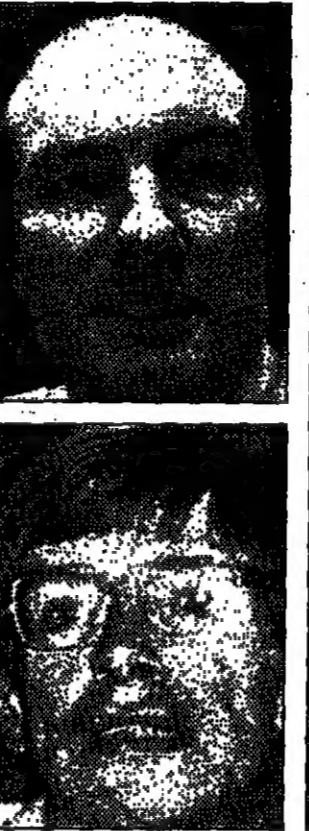
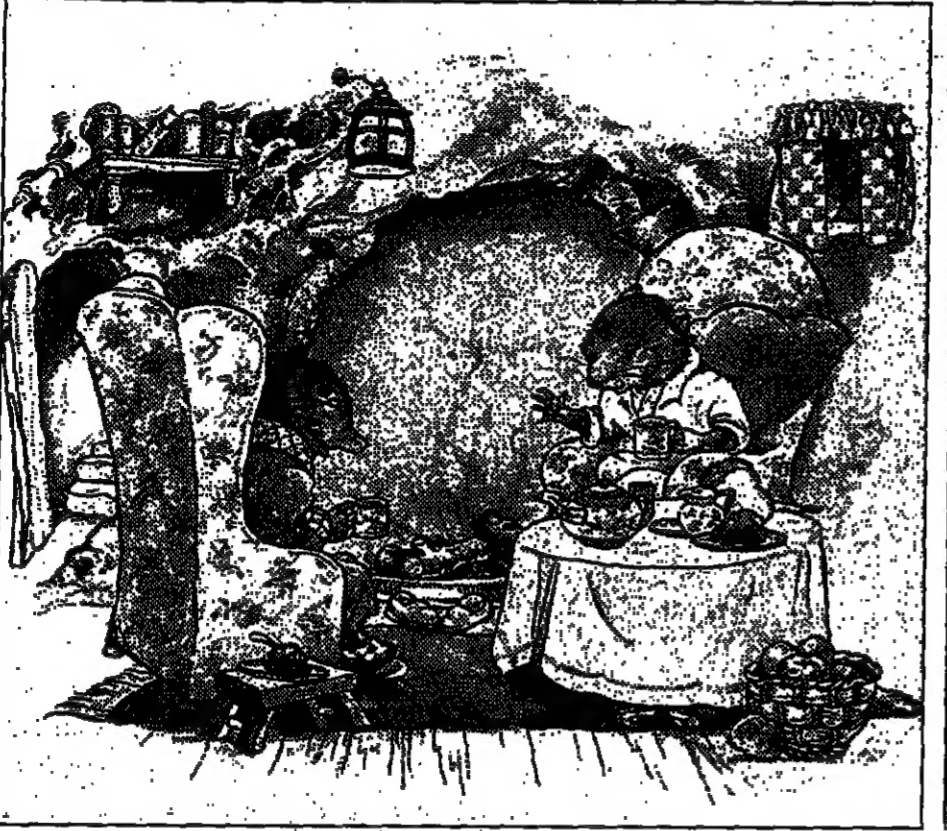
Mark Tran in New York

RUPERT Murdoch yesterday became America's most powerful television mogul by paying \$2.5 billion (£1.6 billion) for the New World Communications Group. He will now reach 40 per cent of homes in America through New World's 10 television stations, all affiliates of his News Corp's Fox television.

That will give Fox a massive advantage over rivals ABC, CBS and NBC, traditionally the three leading networks, with an unrivalled platform to launch and promote new shows. The New World deal fits neatly into Mr Murdoch's strategy of owning both distribution and content. The distribution power that News Corp gains will be all the more crucial as it prepares to launch a 24-hour news channel, taking on CNN and the new Microsoft-NBC round the clock channel that started on Monday.

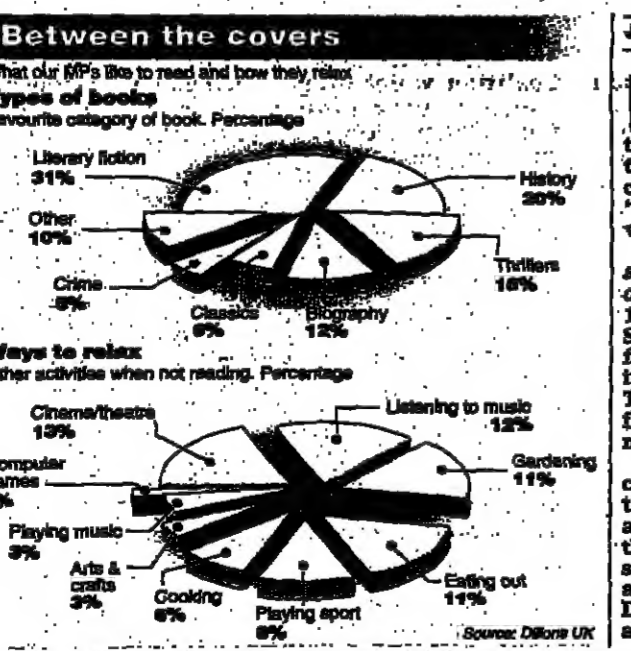
News Corp already held 20 per cent of New World, owned by flamboyant New York investor Ronald Perleman, who also owns Revlon, the cosmetics company. Mr Murdoch acquired the stake two years ago for \$500 million. In exchange, New World switched the affiliations of 10 of its 12 TV stations to Fox from CBS, a unit of the conglomerate Westinghouse.

That earlier deal rocked the American TV world, leading to a game of musical chairs among the big three networks' affiliates. It also subjected Mr Murdoch to intense government scrutiny because of foreign ownership rules affecting American TV stations. The Federal Communications Commission eventually exempted News Corp from rules barring foreign companies from owning TV stations on the grounds that a fourth channel served the public interest. News Corp will own TV stations in 11 of the top 12 markets. Fox has established itself as America's fourth network with hits including shows such as The Simpsons and Beverly Hills 90210 as well as tabloid TV shows such as Inside Edition, X-Files, featuring investigators of the supernatural, has become Fox's latest international success.



Childhood favourite The Wind in the Willows; most regrets about Will Hutton (centre, top) and Stephen Hawkins; political divide over Robert Tressell; and 'over-rated' Salman Rushdie (right, top) and Lord Archer

Not a vote more for 'over-rated' Archer as MPs pick best books



MPS ARE an unusually diverse band in literary tastes but they most fervently agree that their millionaire colleague Jeffrey Archer is "the most overrated author who ever lived". Lord Archer receives this accolade today in a survey of the reading habits of 129 MPs. Will Hutton's The State We're In ties equal first with Stephen Hawkins' A Brief History of Time as the bestseller they feel most guilty about never having read.

Salman Rushdie comes a close second to Archer in the "most overrated author" stakes, followed by the master of convoluted sentences Henry James, along with Martin Amis, DH Lawrence, Enid Blyton and Iris Murdoch. Karl

Marx attracts votes from Labour and Liberal MPs. The survey, by the book-sellers DeBols, finds the most popular books this year are Primary Colors, an anonymous satire on the Clinton election now revealed to be by political commentator Joe Klein, and Roy Jenkins' Biography of Gladstone.

Politics shows most starkly in choices of "greatest political book ever". For Conservatives this is Machiavelli's treatise The Prince, about how to deceive and evade your way through public life. For Labour MPs it is Robert Tressell's Victorian novel The Ragged Dicks, about how a group of impoverished manual workers discover that they are being deceived and swindled by employers and politicians.

Childhood favourites included Wind in the Willows but one named Biggles. MPs most like literary fiction (31 per cent), history (26), thrillers (16) and biography (12). A children's author yesterday criticised writers of adult fiction who are "embarrassed" by the idea of telling a story. Philip Pullman, who has won the Carnegie Medal prize — first awarded in 1936 — for his new work Northern Lights, said: "In adult literary fiction, stories are there on sufferance. Other things are felt to be more important: technical style, literary knowingsness."

'IRA gang' breaks footballer's leg

David Starrock
Ireland Correspondent

THE career of a 19-year-old Northern Ireland professional footballer was in doubt last night after he was beaten with nail-studded clubs by a masked gang claiming to be from the IRA.

Donal Gray, who plays for Glenavon Football Club in Lurgan, Co Armagh, and who has represented Northern Ireland, was operated upon at Belfast's City hospital after being transferred from Daisy Hill in Newry where he was admitted with multiple injuries.



Mr Gray was set upon by seven or more men armed with a handgun, iron bars and nail-studded clubs at his home in Barcroft Park, Newry, early yesterday. The gang claimed to be from the Provisional IRA.

Donal Gray on the attack at his home

head and let them hit away. "They didn't hit my head to the very last. I was up against the fence and one of them came up from behind and just clamped me on the head. Mr Gray said he believed the youths knew he was a footballer. "The doctors say it can be fixed and I might be able to play again. But my head's all messed up. I'm very nervous."

Mr Gray began his career at Portadown and transferred to Patrick Thistle in Scotland. Manager John Lambie called him "a versatile lad who can play in central, midfield or at full back. He's a big lad with a good football brain."

Last season, Mr Gray returned to Northern Ireland and joined Glenavon. A spokesman for the club said: "He is a promising young player and we were hoping that he would have made it into the senior team and held

heads



master

WINE

4 BRITAIN

Natural history comes alive with £12m galleries as rows of rocks in boxes left in past

Earth: Museum shakes visitors with Kobe quake

Maev Kennedy Heritage Correspondent

THERE was quite a large earthquake, nobody killed, one building Secretary shaken. In South Kensington yesterday, as the Natural History Museum showed off its new £12 million earth science galleries.

use of very small typescript labels eight feet up in the displays, and was assured that all geologists were very tall and had keen eyesight.

Keen eyesight is only required now for the interactive touch screens. The galleries use state of the art technology, expected to boost attendance at the museum by 500,000 to 2 million visitors a year.

More galleries, already provided for in the budget, will follow over the next three years. There are some rocks in their original boxes left — in a temporary exhibition for the nostalgic — which will be replaced next year by yet another hi-tech gallery.

The new earth galleries open to the public — combined admission with the Natural History Museum adults £5.50, children £2.80 — on Saturday July 20.



New era... the stunning earth science galleries, funded by the lottery, which open this Saturday PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY MEASER

Space: Probe in a hot spot

Tim Radford Science Editor

THE Galileo space probe which last week sent back a picture of Ganymede, the frozen moon of Jupiter, has also found the most volcanic spot in the solar system, an international meeting of astronomers in Birmingham learned yesterday.

Galileo flew through what space scientists think was a huge dust plume from a volcano on Io, another moon of Jupiter. Yesterday the United States space agency, Nasa, released pictures of Io, yellow with frozen sulphur dioxide from geysers 300 miles high, and marked by dark spots where molten rock at 1,000C had poured on to the hostile soil.

"It must be like being in the midst of active eruptions on Hawaii all over the planet every day," said Torrence Johnson, who led Nasa's investigations into Ganymede. "It might be quite beautiful,

with these umbrella-shaped geysers rising hundreds of kilometres above the surface."

Galileo managed to sneak football-pitch sized pictures of Ganymede, he told Cospar 96, the Committee on Space Research, which drew 2,000 scientists to Birmingham. "If Wembley Stadium were down there we could probably have picked it up." The probe will remain a feature of the Jovian sky, taking a closer look at the other Jovian moons, Callisto, Europa, and Ganymede, until it eventually crashes.

But views of Io will, for the time being, be fleeting and distant. Galileo is not allowed too close since radiation from the mother planet could disrupt the spacecraft's delicate electronics. But what Nasa scientists have seen has been tantalising.

"We want to go back to these places and study them in even more detail," said Dr Johnson. "I think eventually we are going to want to put things on the surface of Io."

British policewomen happy with Atlanta lot

Nil pay, high temperatures and humidity, and cockroaches, but Olympics security recruits are upbeat. John Duncan reports

THE pay isn't good — nothing, zilch. The conditions are worse — eight hours standing in 100-degree heat and 110 per cent humidity.

And the cockroaches are as overfriendly as everyone else in Atlanta.

It is the most violent city in America, on alert for a terrorist attack, and two British policewomen have decided to spend their leave here and work on security. Mad dogs and policemen...

In Atlanta, Celnwen Bridewell, a detective constable from Benfleet in Essex, could hardly be happier. "This is really a dream, to be so close to the biggest sporting event in the world," said Ms Gill. Along with 19 other colleagues from England, the pair's journey to Atlanta started with their answering a small ad in the Police Review in February 1996 asking for volunteers to work during the Olympics in the most sensitive areas. "The advert was tiny," said Gill, "and we were strongly advised by senior officers not to apply,

but well, we're here aren't we."

They have been here since July 1, and while their loose green slacks, light cotton shirts, green armpatches and shiny golden badges give them a more jovial look than their English uniforms might afford, this is no holiday camp.

"We knew what we were coming into," said Ms Bridewell. "Out here they shoot off fleas like animals and this badge means nothing. But then we could have come here as holidaymakers and been in danger."

But it is less the guns and more the perils of daily life that concern them. The pair are billeted at Morehouse, an all-male college in one of Atlanta's rougher areas. "Conditions are grim and the toilets

look as if they haven't been cleaned for 150 years," said Ms Bridewell. "The two of us share a room that is about 10ft by 12ft with two beds, two wardrobes, two desks, and that is it."

"There are no baths so you have to walk down the corridors to shower. And there are no curtains on the showers so we had to improvise and make our own," said Ms Bridewell. "And we had a cockroach yesterday," adds Ms Gill. "I nearly died."

The job itself is a great experience, only marred by the sullen behaviour of one group of competitors. "The British are a sullen lot," said Ms Gill. "Everyone else is really upbeat and smiling and asking how you are, but the British are the only ones who aren't friendly."



Celnwen Bridewell (left) and Bernadette Gill on their beat in Atlanta PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

13-year-old boy denies Jade killing

John Mathis

A 13-YEAR-OLD boy was remanded into secure, local authority care for eight days yesterday after he was charged with the murder of Merseyside of schoolgirl Jade Matthews.

The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, blinked nervously throughout the six-minute hearing before magistrates in Bootle. He spoke only to confirm his identity and acknowledge the charge, which he denies.

His stepfather, listening intently, sat at the front of the modern pine panelled court at South Sefton youth court.

Jade, aged nine, disappeared 11 days ago after she went out to play near her home in Bootle. Her battered body was found a mile away at Netherston on the little-used Bridle Road railway sidings early the following morning.

The boy wore a turquoise and purple jacket, a black T-shirt, blue jeans and white trainers. He was allowed to sit at the court formalities were conducted.

A crowd of about 50 people watched in silence as he was driven away in a white police van 15 minutes after the hearing.

Four police motorcycle outriders escorted the vehicle. Police, who had been on guard outside the courtroom, had appealed for calm.

Frank Dillon, his solicitor, made no application for bail and supported prosecuting solicitor Cuthbert Regan's application for a care order. He issued a statement later.

Mr Dillon said: "My client, who is 13 years of age, has been charged with the murder of Jade Matthews. He emphatically denies the allegation.

"May I please appeal for a dignified and restrained approach to the reporting of this tragic case? My client is entitled to the presumption of innocence which is the very cornerstone of our system of justice.

"It is vitally important that my client is afforded a scrupulously fair trial and that nothing is said, done or published which is likely to impede the course of justice and the due process of law. Any further comment at this time would be inappropriate."

Superintendent Ian Lattimer, the area police commander, issuing an appeal for calm, said: "We ask that all of Merseyside remains calm, as by doing so we can all greatly assist the legal process and allow the needs of Jade's family to be met."

Botham denies knowledge of 'rife cheating'

England all-rounder says apartheid kept him apart he kept him from SA, writes Sarah Boseley

EMINENT professional cricketers may have spoken openly of dodgy bowling practices involving smears of lipsalve or sun cream on the ball, or even roughening one side with the nails or a handy bottle-top to alter its swing, but former England player Ian Botham has neither done such things nor been aware of others doing so, he told the High Court yesterday.

"That is cheating," Botham told George Carman QC firmly and repeatedly during cross-examination on the third day of his libel action against the former Pakistan cricketer Imran Khan.

The barrister and the cricketer engaged in vigorous debate over the exact interpretation of the rules of the game.

"Sweat is legal," stated Botham, as a natural substance with which to shine the ball. Suncream and lipsalve, as artificial substances, were illegal.

Botham alleges that an article in the Sun newspaper by Imran in May 1994 accused him of ball-tampering and therefore, in his eyes, labelled him a cheat.

Imran's defence is that a number of major figures in Test and county cricket have claimed that the practice of ball-tampering is widespread and that he considers it to be an acceptable part of the game.

words were taken out of context.

Mike Atherton, the current England captain and David Lloyd, the coach, are among a galaxy of cricketing superstars who have been or will be subpoenaed to give evidence in the case.

Lloyd had admitted applying lipsalve to the ball when he played for Lancashire, Mr Carman pointed out to Botham. "I don't know, I wasn't there. I played for other counties," the player replied.

Atherton wrote in his 1995 autobiography Ian Botham: A Test of Cricket — Know the Game, that lifting the seam of the ball with the thumbnail, which has been flattened after many contacts with a bat, was tacitly accepted as part and parcel of the game. "I think he's got it wrong," Botham said. "I don't think it is an acceptable part of the game."

He was not using his nails on the ball in a video clip shown to the jury, Botham told Mr Carman. "What nails, sir?" he asked, spreading his hands before him. "I've bitten my nails since I was a kid. I have no nails."

Earlier, Botham insisted that he had turned down a proposed three-year trip to play cricket in South Africa for political rather than financial reasons. In 1989, the South African cricketing authorities had invited him to name his price, and he had asked for half a million pounds to compensate for earnings he would lose by joining a rebel tour.

After detailed negotiations, he refused to go, as he had refused in the early 1990s, over what he regarded as a racist slur against Viv Richards who, they had been told, would be treated "as an honorary white" in South Africa. In 1993, it was also the reason why I didn't go," he said. "The case continues."

Advertisement for Dell Dimension P133t PC. Features: 133MHz Pentium chip, 120MHz price, Going quick. Includes Intel Inside Pentium logo, Dell logo, and technical specifications like 16Mb EDO RAM, 256Kb Pipeline Burst Cache, and Microsoft Office Professional 95.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including "Lon wor", "World S", "ry Walte", "James", "Defende", and "Push has be".

150

In terms of audience share the BBC World Service is streets ahead of its competitors. Alex Bellos on the reasons for its popularity

London calling, and the world keeps listening



If you happened to be stranded on the South American pampas with nothing but a short-wave radio, it would be possible to hear the news from places as far away and diverse as Cairo, Seoul and Beijing.

Even though the BBC World Service is the best known international broadcaster, almost every country has a radio service aimed at a foreign audience.

China Radio International is the most prolific, a consequence of the vast expansion during the Cultural Revolution. In terms of how many hours of programmes it broadcasts it is way ahead of the pack, producing 600 per cent more than the World Service, its nearest rival. It even has a service in Esperanto one can pick up in four continents.

But for all CRI's output, only a few million people tune in, according to the World Service's audience research department. The audience for the World Service stands head and shoulders above the competition. More than 140 million people listen weekly. This is divided into 123 million who listen to broadcasts directly on short-wave and those who listen to re-broadcasts.

The next most popular is the Voice of America. It claims 98 million people tune in every week, although this is disputed by independent research commissioned by the BBC two years ago, which puts the number of direct listeners at about 60 million.

That same research puts Deutsche Welle and Radio France Internationale as the next largest, with about 13 per cent of the World Service's share, although the German station has lost audience since then.

As well as having the largest market share, which is still growing, the World Service is also the most respected. Internal BBC documents seen by the Guardian regarding the results of 39 studies around the world about trustworthiness of international broadcasters, showed that the BBC came top in 89 per cent of the studies.

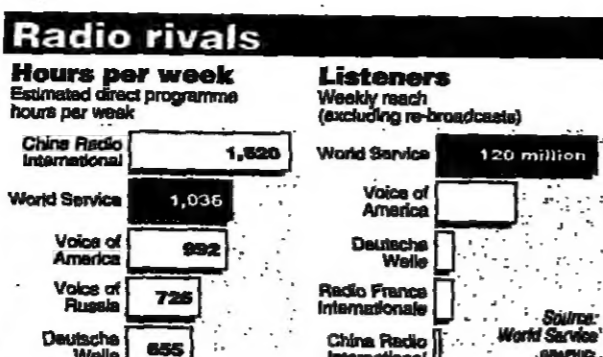
"In image terms, the BBC has no competition, especially with regard to the impartial nature of its news coverage," says Mary Goodyear, executive chairman of Market Behaviour, which has researched worldwide attitudes towards the World Service for the last five years.

The reputation for impartiality was attributed to the BBC's role during the second world war, and also to the fact that the UK was no longer seen as a dominant force in world affairs.

Voice of America, which was set up to "represent the US", was vulnerable to the criticism that it was part of an American imperialist strategy to dominate the world.

Many people did not like the American broadcasting style. But despite this, Voice of America was the World Service's main competitor, partly because US culture had appeal for young listeners.

The German and French stations were small fry because their main services were not in English. "The world wants to speak English."



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The German and French stations were small fry because their main services were not in English. "The world wants to speak English."



From its Bush House base the World Service garners a world-beating audience of more than 120 million a week

My World Service

Terry Waite

LAST week I had the good fortune to meet John Birt for the first time. The occasion was a party at Bush House to celebrate 30 years of Outlook, the magazine programme broadcast each weekday on the World Service.

The previous day I had joined a lobby in Westminster to protest against the changes proposed by Mr Birt. There were a lot of questions I wanted to ask him.

I asked him why he didn't consult with anyone at the World Service before making his announcement. He said he was engaged in an exercise that affected the whole of the BBC and con-



sultation would have meant a great deal of upset after which the same decisions would have had to be made in six months time.

Mr Birt is a clever manager and it's little use telling him what the World Ser-

vice meant to me in prison or when I was isolated from accurate news in the middle of revolutionary Uganda. Of the reputation the World Service has for accuracy. What difference there is between a domestic news agenda and a global agenda. He might just listen when we say: the World Service is 28 per cent cheaper per broadcasting hour than domestic radio; overheads are 44 per cent less; production costs are 36 per cent less.

He may know all this. What he seems not to know is that the World Service as an institution didn't get to be number one in the world by good luck alone. It must retain its editorial independence, its international expertise and its unique character.

P D James

NO ONE who travels widely can be in any doubt that the World Service, delivered in 42 languages to an audience of 140 million, is trusted, admired and indeed loved as is no other international broadcaster.

We can be unreservedly proud of what it does and what it represents. I listen to it regularly and am always happy when invited to take part in its programmes.

There is a particular pleasure in entering Bush House, a pleasure compounded of anticipation of intelligent questioning and high quality programme-making, meeting with familiar friends, and a sense of history in my memories of what Bush House and



the World Service meant in the darkest days of the war. It is a building which for me represents the ethos of public service broadcasting more clearly than does any other part of the BBC.

It is difficult today to talk about the ethos of the BBC in relation to management without being accused of sentimentality, nostalgia and an indignant disregard of the imperatives of the modern world. But the respect in which the World Service and the whole BBC are held rests on more than the quality of the programmes.

The way in which the restructuring of the service was announced without consultation with those most intimately concerned was an insult to loyal and dedicated staff and a distress to all of us who expect better of the BBC.

Defenders of the jewel

AT LEAST 236 MPs have signed an all-party nearly day motion on the World Service moved by Peter Temple-Morris (Conservative), Margaret Hodge (Labour) and Sir David Steel (Liberal Democrat).

The motion reads: "That this House notes with concern the proposed reorganisation of the BBC and in particular the potential impact on the World Service; recognises that the huge international following the World Service has built up is of great benefit to Britain's image abroad and has been achieved through the independence of the excellent programme-makers at Bush House; further recognises that the World Service in English and the language services are inextricably linked; and calls on the BBC Chairman and Board of Governors to guarantee that the

- The signatories are:
- LABOUR:** Diane Abbott, Graham Allen, Donald Anderson, Janet Anderson, Hilary Armstrong, John Austin-Walker, Tony Benn, Harry Bennet, Kevin Brown, John Burt, Hugh Burns, Stuart Bell, Tony Blair, Gerald Burtwell, Clive Busby, David Cameron, John Gummer, Keith Gurnham, John Hume, John Major, John Mann, John Reid, John Rennie, John Smeaton, John Spence, John Taylor, John Timpson, John Wakeham, John Whittingdale, John Woodcock, John Yeo, John Zinkin.
- CONSERVATIVE:** Robert Ainsworth, David Auld, Harry Baxby, Peter Bottomley, Nicholas Brierley, Matthew Campbell, William Cash, Michael Gove, Piers Corbyn, Julian Critchley, Edwin Currie, Stephen Day, Dan Davut, David Davies, Hugh Davies, Jeffrey Deakin, Nigel Gifford, Christopher Gill, Henry Gwynne, Roger Handberg, Michael Griffin, Michael Gyles, John Harcourt, Alan Haselhurst, Jerry Hayes, Robert Hill, Terence Higgins, John Hunt, Andrew Hurrell, Robert Jackson, Toby Jones, David Keir, Ian Lester, Jim Lester, Michael Lunt, David Mace, Paul Marshall, Michael Marshall, Nicholas Mates, Patrick McAuliffe, David Mitchell, David Nicholson, Elizabeth Plummer, Roger Pugh, John Rennie, Tim Ruffoon, Tim Sainsbury, Wynne Evans, Andrew Ross, Alan Shaw, Colin Sheehy, Roger Sims, John Stanley, Walter Swearingen, Teddy Taylor, Peter Temple-Morris, Patrick Thompson, Malcolm Thornton, Cyril D Young, Richard Young, Neil Young, George Young, Bill Walker, John Wakeham, John Whittingdale, Nicholas Winter.
- LIBERAL DEMOCRAT:** Malcolm Bruce, Maudie Campbell, Chris Davies, Don Foster, Nick Harvey, Russell Johnston, Liz Lyons, Ray Milla, David Steel, Matthew Taylor, Paul Tyler, James Whelan, Uwe Kay Stange.

Push has been compared to Catcher in the Rye for giving voice to the voiceless. It also belongs to a genre of black writing that includes Black Boy by Richard Wright, the Autobiography of Malcolm X and Charles Johnson's Oxherding Tale.

Mark Tran, G2 page 7

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Row looms over new US move to target 'pariah' regimes • Retaliation over anti-Cuba measures still on the cards

Sanctions bill likely to infuriate EU

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

NEW trade rows between Britain, its European Union partners and the United States are looming as Congress puts the finishing touches to legislation that will punish non-American companies investing in Iran and Libya.

After Tuesday's uneasy truce over the Helms-Burton law on Cuba, diplomats and businessmen are braced for trouble over the D'Amato-Kennedy package that will penalise firms which defy Washington's attempts to isolate these two 'pariah' regimes.

"There are going to be problems," said one US official. "It's clear that the confrontation over Helms-Burton has been largely a matter of principle. But there is much greater scope for damaging European interests on D'Amato and Kennedy."

The bill, supported by the Clinton administration, outlines sanctions against foreign firms that invest \$40 million (\$26 million) or more in the energy sectors of Libya and Iraq. Both are on the state department list of countries that support international terrorism and the US has unilaterally outlawed trade with them.

The House and Senate each have their own version of the bill, which has already been weakened after British, EU and administration lobbying. The two chambers must work out compromise legislation.

The legislation, expected within weeks, is less draconian than the Helms-Burton law. It does not allow US nationals to sue non-US firms or for visa cancellation. But it is an extension of the controversial principle of 'extra-territoriality' that Britain and the EU so vehemently oppose.

"It's not acceptable but it's certainly less damaging than it was," said a Foreign Office source.

"As drafted at present we don't think it will resolve concerns about Iran and Libya," said another Whitehall official. "Interfering in the legitimate business interests of third countries is unacceptable in principle to the UK."

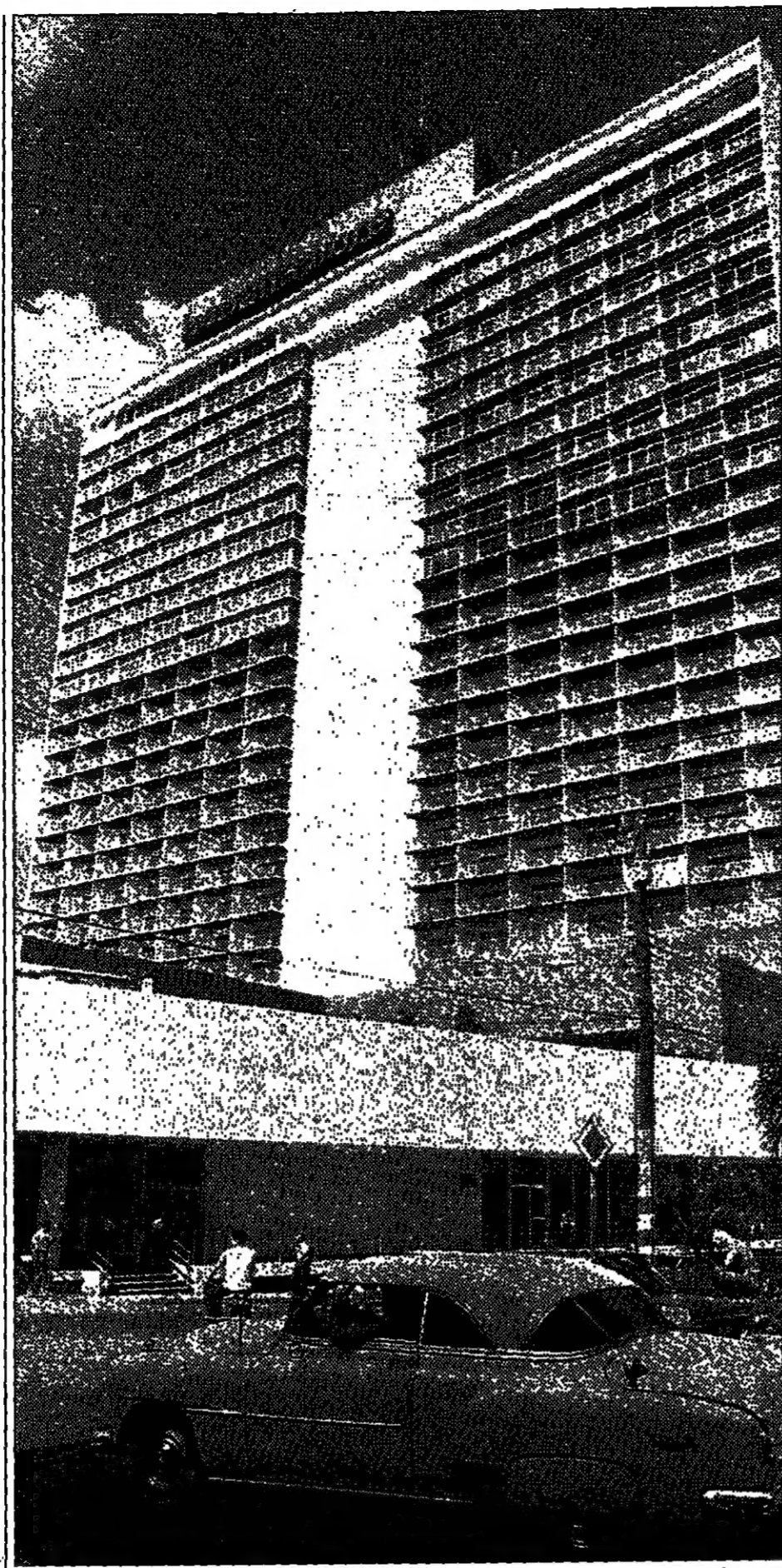
The stakes are far higher than over Cuba, because of the size of investments in Libya by big European oil and gas companies such as Italy's Agip, Repsol of Spain and several Austrian and German companies. In Britain, Shell could also face problems.

Possible sanctions by the US include denying Export-Import Bank loans, denying export licences, barring US banks from making loans of more than \$10 million (\$5.5 million) a year to sanctioned countries, barring sanctioned financial institutions from being primary dealers of US government bonds, banning US government procurement of goods and services from sanctioned entities and imposing import sanctions.

US officials insist that the proposed measures comply with the rules of the World Trade Organisation though they could violate codes of practice laid down by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

"We have a very significant interest in trading with Libya, and the Americans promoting it as a target is a source of concern," one British businessman said last night. "But because of the French and Italians and the other members over Cuba the US won't carry the same weight on Libya as it did before."

Britain is arguing that, by acting unilaterally against Libya, Washington will weaken the resolve of other countries — not strong at the best of times — to abide by the limited UN sanctions already in force over the Lockerbie bombing affair.



The Havana Libre hotel, used by Fidel Castro as his headquarters during the 1959 revolution. It is run by a Spanish group and a potential target of the Helms-Burton legislation. Spain has guardedly applauded President Clinton's delaying action.

Europe reacts coolly to Clinton delaying tactics

Ian Black in London and John Palmer in Strasbourg

BRITAIN and its European Union partners yesterday gave a cool welcome to President Bill Clinton's temporary compromise over Cuban sanctions but said that retaliation was still on the cards.

President Clinton ordered the anti-Cuba measures to come into force but delayed the practical impact for six months to appease allies who threatened a fit-for-action.

Spain, Germany and Ireland all called the decision a "step in the right direction", while Dick Spring, the Irish foreign minister and president of the EU Council of Ministers, spoke of a "turnaround in European Union/United States relations".

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said he was glad the US had "pulled back from the brink" but regretted the decision not to waive other parts of the law.

Ian Lang, the Trade Secretary, warned that Britain and other EU members could still impose visa restrictions on

US citizens and take other measures against US firms operating in Europe.

"It's not the kind of range of activities one seeks to get involved in but we cannot leave our own interests unprotected and we must bring home to the Americans the unacceptable nature of what they have been doing," he said.

Britain and other EU members are disturbed by the growing trend in the US for foreign policy and trade issues to be driven by domestic political lobbies — which become more powerful in an election year — and then forced unilaterally on allies.

"It is not a satisfactory solution," a European Union official said. "On Monday the Helms-Burton Act was not law and on Wednesday it is. It is supposed to be good news for us?"

The anti-Cuba measures — part of the so-called Helms-Burton Act — allow lawsuits to be filed in US courts against foreign firms that own or operate the properties seized by Cuba from US citizens who were Cuban nationals before fleeing the 1959

communist revolution. US allies have protested bitterly, saying many companies would face legal claims against big investments, such as hotels and mines.

But optimists believe the worst of the row may now be over. "I would expect the situation in Washington to look very different in six months time," one diplomat said. "For a start we will have passed the presidential election and the political balance in Congress is also likely to be different."

The Canadian foreign affairs minister, Lloyd Axworthy, said that Mr Clinton's compromise appeared aimed at silencing domestic criticism until after the election.

A European Commission official observed: "We have to stop this kind of extra-territorial legislation in its tracks now over Cuba or face a really dangerous escalation in transatlantic tensions if we get the Helms-Burton principle applied more generally. There is too much at stake to allow trade conflicts of this kind to undermine the European/American partnership."

Human cost of blockade

A Correspondent in Havana

MARIA DEL CARMEN, aged 27, can barely see. She trained as a laboratory technician until her sight worsened 10 months ago.

She has been waiting for glasses on the Cuban national health service which it cannot provide.

She blames the long standing American blockade.

She said: "You can wait months for medical care and get nothing. If you have friends in America they can send you things but if not, there is nothing you can do. You get angry." Medicine and most other items can be bought on the black market with US dollars which many cannot afford. A typical monthly salary is \$15 (\$230).

this continual lack has made Cuban people very stressed, very nervous."

It has also made them heavily dependent on foreign visitors. Silvana Mayoral, a teacher, moved out of her flat to live with her mother so she could rent the flat to tourists for \$10 a day. Her anger is directed at Washington.

She said: "We do not know whether our government is to blame or not. We cannot see that. All I need to see is a country the size of America, when we are so small, coming into my home, the place where I was born, and telling me how to lead my life, what I must do. They are crazy sometimes, the Americans. What gives them the right?"

A government spokesman yesterday described the latest attempt to tighten the blockade, via the Helms-Burton Act, as not only absurd but in conflict with the interests of American citizens.

Official figures show that more than 300 representatives of 180 North American firms — including commercial giants such as Coca-Cola, Pepsi, General Motors, General Electric, IBM and Chase Manhattan — flew into Havana in 1994 and 1995 on business trips.

The state-run Cuban media reports daily on blockade developments and today quoted the views of Europe's leaders.

The blockade is the reason for Cuba's present economic crisis, which has worsened since the withdrawal of subsidies from the Soviet Union. Many say they would like to leave. Official figures show that 389 Cubans seeking asylum in the US have been returned since last May.

'Anonymous' shows his true colours

The mystery author of a bestselling novel about Clinton's 1992 campaign has been unmasked. Ian Katz in New York reports

THE long-running hunt for the anonymous author of Primary Colours ended yesterday when the Newsweek political commentator Joe Klein admitted that he penned the best-selling roman-a-clef about the 1992 Clinton campaign.

Mr Klein, who had repeatedly denied he was the author, was finally exposed after a handwriting expert hired by the Washington Post matched changes on an early Primary Colours manuscript with the journalist's handwriting.

Mr Klein's appearance at a press conference yesterday afternoon brought to a close the frenzied guessing game that has gripped political and publishing circles since the novel appeared on American bookshelves in January.

A short, middle-aged man told a packed conference room at the Manhattan headquarters of Random House, which published the book: "My name is Joe Klein and I wrote Primary Colours. I did it myself and with no secret sources."

The author's apparently considerable inside knowledge of the Clinton campaign led early betting to focus on White House aides and writers with known links to the president's inner circle.

President Clinton, portrayed in the book as a tech-savvy and ruthless political opportunist, needed the baffled press corps, saying the novelist's identity was "the only secret I've seen kept in Washington in three years".

The Post said it had obtained the early book manuscript through a second-hand book dealer. The cover was marked: "Confidential. For your eyes only!" and several pages contained handwritten amendments.

Challenged on the handwriting match, Mr Klein asked for five minutes to consider his answer and then called the newspaper to say: "No comment."

In the past he has been considerably less shy about denying his involvement. At a campaign event during the February presidential primaries, he shouted to other reporters: "For God's sake, definitely, I didn't write it!"

Mr Klein had emerged as a prime suspect after New York magazine commissioned Donald Foster, the Vassar College professor who used a computer technique to identify a long-lost Shakespeare poem, to analyse the Primary Colours

rumours that the journalist's daughter had boasted to classmates that her daddy was rich and noted that he had recently bought a new house and car.

Throughout, the agent Kathy Robbins has resolutely refused to discuss the identity of her client. The publisher Harold Evans, head of Random House, insisted he did not know the author's identity.

The guessing game turned the novel into a publishing phenomenon with US hardback sales of more than 1.1 million. Along with a \$1 million (\$250,000) film deal, it is estimated the novel will earn its author more than \$6 million.

One mystery remains: why would a journalist go to such great lengths to reject credit for a runaway success?

"It went from being a sporting joke to an egregious and unacceptable lie," Kurt Andersen, the editor of New York magazine, said. "When he began categorically denying it, he got caught in a web of lies." Conspiracy theorists offer another explanation. Could Mr Klein have been working with someone who needed to guard his or her anonymity very closely?

'It went from being a sporting joke to an egregious and unacceptable lie'

manuscript. The academic discovered similarities between language use in the novel and Mr Klein's style of writing. Both Anonymous and the Newsweek writer showed a fondness for adjectives ending in "y", such as "talky", "slimy" and "sleazy". At the same time New York's media heard

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MEPs tackle influence of lobbyists

John Palmer in Strasbourg

MEMBERS of the European Parliament took a first timid step yesterday by bringing the activities of lobbyists under public scrutiny.

After seven years of inconclusive debate, the parliament agreed that its members will have to make annual declarations of all gifts and benefits received. Lobbying organisations will have to reveal all payments and gifts made to MEPs.

Resolutions setting up a framework for regulating members' interests and establishing a register for lobbying organisations were passed by overwhelming majorities. Similar moves were deadlocked earlier this year, with

Main points

- Each MEP must make a detailed declaration of professional activities and list all paid activities.
- Declarations will be available for public scrutiny.
- MEPs must refuse any gift, payment or benefit which might influence their vote. All such gifts, payments and benefits must be declared before any relevant debate.
- No MEP may accept financial support or the provision of staff or material except those supplied by the European Parliament.

British Conservative MEPs split three ways. All voted in favour of the new rules yesterday.

It is estimated that between 7,000 and 10,000 lobbying instances - ranging from multinational companies to ecological organisations - are active in seeking to sway the increasingly influential European Parliament.

"We have taken a modest but an important step which will throw a powerful public light on the relations between MEPs and lobbyists," Glyn Ford, the Labour MEP for

Manchester West, said. Mr Ford's resolution will establish a register of members' interests which will be open to public inspection in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg.

The coalition of socialists, independent leftwing parties and Greens which spearheaded the call for stricter controls on MEPs' links with lobbies only won the day after making important concessions. MEPs will now be exempt from accepting any gift worth more than £500 had to be replaced with a requirement to register all "significant" gifts.

"The European Parliament will now work out the details of how this should work," Mr Ford said.

"But I think we all know there is a difference between taking a bottle of wine in return for undertaking a speaking engagement or accepting a cup of coffee from a multinational company, and accepting several crates of champagne or an all-expenses-paid overseas trip."

In trying to work out a detailed code of conduct for MEPs, the European Parliament found itself torn between the differing traditions in member states. In the Nordic countries parliamentarians are forbidden to accept any gifts, whereas take a more relaxed view.

Jean-Thomas Nordmann, a French Christian Democrat who moved the motion on members' interests, said: "We had to achieve a maximum consensus of a big majority of our members to ensure that anything could be done at all. "We are aware that members will remain bound by the stricter laws in some of our member states. But I believe the publicity which will surround the need to declare all payments or benefits received in future will have a salutary effect."

Throughout the debate references were made to unnamed members and their links with powerful commercial lobbying organisations. These included MEPs who allegedly accepted paid researchers, office staff and foreign trips from organisations seeking to influence European legislation on health and safety and other issues.



Richard Holbrooke addresses reporters in Belgrade after his first round of talks with Serbia's president

US envoy leaves Belgrade empty-handed

Ian Black, Diplomatic Editor

SERBIA'S president, Slobodan Milosevic, yesterday failed to deliver the goods to Richard Holbrooke, the American architect of Bosnia's faltering Dayton peace accord, in four hours of "inconclusive" talks in Belgrade.

Mr Holbrooke - recalled from his Wall Street banking job to prevent a collapse of the Dayton process - urged Mr Milosevic to deal finally with Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader and an indicted war criminal, to remove an obstacle to Bosnia's post-war elections due on September 14.

"I cannot tell you we made any progress today and I will not characterise the talks except to say they were inconclusive," the United States envoy said later.

"Confidential negotiations" require confidentiality, Mr Holbrooke is to return to Belgrade this afternoon after talks in Zagreb with Croatia's president, Franjo Tudjman, and will leave for Washington tomorrow.

Spearheading intense international diplomatic activity, Mr Holbrooke warned Mr Milosevic that it was up to him to remove his former protégé or face economic sanctions. Dayton forbids any individual indicted for war crimes from holding public office or participating in elections.

The issue came to a head last week after Robert Frowick, the US ambassador to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, announced he would decide tomorrow if the ballot can go ahead or whether Mr Karadzic's Serb Democratic Party should be barred.

Mr Holbrooke is regarded as one of the few Western diplomats thought capable of cajoling rival Bosnian powers into line with the Dayton agreement. But Mr Milosevic, seen by many as the real architect of Bosnia's war, has so far been unwilling to risk the domestic political consequences of forcing Mr Karadzic out of office and into the jurisdiction of the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

Mr Holbrooke has indicated that the US is ready to use the threat of sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia to push Mr Milosevic into line.

But as so often before, the international community is divided. Russia opposes sanctions and Britain backs a graduated approach that first punishes the Bosnian Serbs. There are also divisions over whether to empower the Nato-led peace implementation force, IFOR, actively to pursue Mr Karadzic, General Ratko Mladic and others.

Sounding tough, Nato's secretary-general, Javier Solana, warned yesterday: "All options are open... The road between The Hague and Pale is getting shorter, shorter and shorter."

"In the last few days there has been enormous diplomatic activity. We are putting all the pressure possible on the parties to comply with Dayton." But Russia's foreign minister, Yevgeny Primakov, said attempts to seize Mr Karadzic on a warrant issued by the Hague tribunal could undermine the Bosnian elections.

Arabs close their ranks against Netanyahu

Derek Brown in Jerusalem

THE Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, today pays his first official visit to a neighbouring Arab capital, bearing assurances that his government is committed to peace in the region.

But as he prepares to fly to Cairo for talks with the Egyptian president, Hosni Mubarak, there were clear signs of growing Arab cooperation with the new Israeli government's reluctance to spell out its policies.

Todays brief trip was described by a aide to Mr Netanyahu as a "get acquainted visit". The Egyptians, however, will be looking for rather more than a social call.

A flurry of diplomatic activity this week has brought warnings from Egypt, Jordan, Syria and the Palestinians that Israel cannot expect to have everything its own way in coming negotiations.

Syria's emphatic rejection of any talks which do not include the future of the occupied Golan Heights was predictable. So too was the milder chiding of Egyptian officials whose chief concern is to promote President Mubarak as a leading player in the peace process.

More ominous for Mr Netanyahu were the frosty signals from Jordan, Israel's newest but staunchest ally in the region.

Hong Kong man is first foreigner executed post-war as Vietnam gets tough on drugs

Those caught can expect no mercy, writes Njck Cumming-Bruce in Ho Chi Minh City

ALMOST nobody noticed when Vietnamese security men escorted Wong Chi Sinh from a Ho Chi Minh City jail to a shooting range in the suburb of Thu Duc.

A firing squad unleashed a volley of shots and then - in line with official procedure - one of the officers stepped forward to put a single bullet in his head to ensure he was dead.

Wong, a Hong Kong Briton, was shot in June last year for smuggling 5kg of heroin, becoming the first foreigner to be executed in post-war Vietnam. He will not be the last.

Two more Hong Kong men may follow in his footsteps. Ho Kam Weng, aged 34, and Kong Chong Sang, aged 26, were seized at Ho Chi Minh City's airport in March carrying 18kg of heroin earlier this month by a foreign businessman.

The EU is likely to follow up on the meeting with ASEAN by sending a team of foreign ministers from EU member states to Rangoon to warn the military government about the growing international reaction to abuses of human rights.

no doubt they are catching only minor players. These caught can expect little mercy. Like Singapore and Malaysia, Vietnam executes traffickers carrying more than a specified quantity of drugs. But unlike their partners in the Association of South-east Asian Nations (Asean), Hanoi does not advertise its draconian penalties.

Vietnam's penal code allows courts to impose sentences ranging from 12 years imprisonment to death for those caught with more than 3kg of opium. Perhaps prompted by the spectacle of rampant drug abuse and a roaring trade across the northern border in China, the Vietnamese

At least seven people were sentenced to death last year

Opium cultivation has fallen sharply in the past three years through crop eradication and substitution drives - but levels of addiction have not.

Climate change 'worse than war' - Gummer

Past Brown in Geneva

THE United States propelled the climate change talks forward yesterday, repudiating its own industry lobby, with a White House endorsement of realistic and binding targets to cut carbon dioxide emissions.

Timothy Wirth, the undersecretary for global affairs, attacked "naysayers and special interests bent on belittling, attacking and obstructing climate change science. So let's take a false issue off the table; there can be no question but that the findings (on climate change) meet the highest standards of scientific integrity."

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FREE CALL

Arrest the war criminals
They must be found even if Nato has to stay on

THE MUSLIMS were lined up on one side of a dirt road 17 miles northwest of Srebrenica. Some had their hands tied with wire behind their backs. Bosnian Serbs gunned them down from the other side, where the ground is now coated with spent bullet casings. A year later, international war crimes investigators are digging out the crumbling bodies in a muggy heat, surrounded by a cloud of bugs and butterflies. They have already exhumed 66 bodies in this single mass grave: there are more.

THE BOSNIAN Serbs must be resisted or else a new cycle of blackmail and concessions will begin. Mr Bildt has counselled caution, fearing that the result will simply be a boycott of the elections by the ruling Bosnian Serb party. Yet to do nothing will risk a much more justified boycott now being threatened from Sarajevo by President Izetbegovic. In the end the crux of the problem has to be faced: as long as the leading figures accused of war crimes are at large, they will defy and disrupt the peace process.

Labour can't duck this challenge
It must reverse the obscene inequalities it may soon inherit

GORDON BROWN is right — privatising welfare, as set out by yesterday's Treasury leak, would be wrong. And so are moves which lead to privatisation: allowing pensions to erode by being linked only to a prices index; reducing unemployment pay from 12 months to six; falling to help poor children stay in school beyond 16. But hold on. Which party is refusing to restore the earnings index for pensions? Labour. Which party is refusing to restore unemployment benefits to 12 months? Labour. Which party is still dithering over withdrawing child benefit after 16 from better-off parents to ensure poorer parents can be given generous allowances to keep their children in education? Labour.

THE CHANCELLOR dismissed yesterday's leaked Treasury paper on the "shrinking state" as unrealistic crystal ball gazing by "young kids in the office". But old kids have been at the same task too and we don't need a leak to prove that. Over three years ago when he was the Chancellor's Chief Secretary, Michael Portillo began an operation under which Whitehall's main spending departments had to review their programmes to redefine the boundary between public and private provision. Each was asked whether the services which the state was currently providing could be shifted to individuals, families or employers. Over at Social Security, Peter Lilley has been doing just that by manoeuvring through Parliament a succession of "readjust-

The vote race begins at Putney
But why Sir James is fighting David Mellor remains a puzzle

OTHERWISE intelligent Conservatives shake and tremble at the mere mention of the name of Goldsmith. The Mexico-based grocer causes nightmares among impressionable MPs in many marginal seats, with his threat to challenge any Tory who will not endorse his demand for a referendum on the European for a single currency. So why, of all the places in the land, has Sir James himself chosen to do battle in Putney, and why is the target of his crusade not one of the arch-Europeans of the Cabinet — Kenneth Clarke, Michael Heseltine or John Gummer — but the lesser figure of David Mellor?

Sir James's own answer to the question is not convincing. "It is three miles from where I live," he told the BBC this week. Leaving to one side the fact that Sir James does not seem to live anywhere in this country very often, the fact is that his UK hacienda lies in a Conservative seat, Richmond Park, represented by a Foreign Office minister, Jeremy Hanley. Quite why Sir James thinks a challenge to Mr Mellor is more resonant than one to Mr Hanley is yet another mystery, but it does not say much for his political judgment.



Letters to the Editor
Why John Birt must not get his way

THANK you for your continued coverage of John Birt's plans for the BBC World Service. It is the only way we hear about them. Birt says the World Service must not be regarded as a garden that needs preserving. I heartily agree, and believe most people who work here feel likewise. But his proposed changes have frozen us in time, and forced a commitment and creative work-force to devote their energies to maintaining the status quo.

THE NETWORK, with one channel running 24-hours, news and current affairs, it was pretty ambitious as there was less, not more, money. The World Service would welcome a dynamic management which recognised its potential rather than thinking nostalgically of us as some vestige of Empire. We have a virtual global monopoly. No station comes close to our reach and reputation. This, despite the fact that much of our audience has to struggle to hear us on the scratchy short-wave frequencies.

AT THE recent Hands Off the BBC public meeting referred to by Paul Foot (Comment page 15), I heard Charles Wheeler put the case for an urgent defence of standards in BBC programming-making and question the roles of colleagues Tony Hall, Alan Yentob and Michael Jackson. The ability of these men to fight for what they believe in is under public scrutiny and the coming weeks will show the extent of their moral courage. In the words of Thomas Paine, "These are the times that try men's souls". As far as women's souls are concerned, Brian Pritchard, 47 Derby Road, Watford WD1 2LZ.

TO SOME extent how the old World Service operates now is an artefact from the days when we ruled, or thought we ruled, both the waves and airwaves. The new waves and airwaves. The new function of post-Fatcherite headless chickens. Perhaps it is just time to let the world have a say. Why not invite radio broadcasters from other countries to contribute programmes, expertise and funds? Then it would be a true World Service. David Fine, 4 Pickford Villas, Monywa Road, Belperwell, Derbyshire DE45 1FG.

Equal calls for a resignation

MANY thanks to Donna Covey, the GMB's Equal Opportunities Officer, for stating so positively what some women have thought for a long time — that Kamlesh Bahi, Chairwoman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, is not fighting the battle for women's equality (Why Kamlesh Bahi must go, July 16). The EOC was set up to move forward the role and opportunities for all women against a background of prejudice and backward attitudes that have prevailed for far too long. We shall need women to be concerned, active and supportive of each other, and institutions that will move us onward, to the day they are no longer required. The EOC is falling in in this task. This quoango needs a new change in direction. Erika Smith, 216 Stow Hill, Newport, Gwent NP23 4HA.

PEEL compelled to call for Donna Covey to go. Her obnoxious article does nothing to further the movement against low pay, job insecurity and the working conditions for women, or anybody else for that matter. For too long the lie that the discrimination and oppression of women is a greater social injustice than any other has gone unargued. The fact that the lie has been propagated by a privileged section of middle-class women, motivated out of self-interest, has not gone unnoticed by the rest of us, and that especially includes women from underprivileged backgrounds, who have fared so poorly from the feminist crusade. What Ms Covey so poorly understands is that women suffering from poverty, low pay and bad working conditions do not live in a social vacuum. They live in the same underprivileged community as their brothers, fathers, lovers, male friends and sons who depend on them and whom they depend. Poverty and bad conditions create an interdependency between individuals in such circumstances. An attack on the rights of impoverished women is an attack on the men of their community and vice versa. It is revealing that the two examples quoted by Ms Covey relate to the provision of car-parking spaces and road assistance. Does she think that all impoverished women I Davidson, 56 Shiel Road, Liverpool, Merseyside L6 3AE.

More of your Irish solutions

AN effective peace process should include a drastic enhancement of the Northern Ireland summer calendar. New Espans, stadiums and Glynedebourges for the province could be as vital to the future as factories. Today the marches, tomorrow the horse races," as Auden might have said. Alyn Synges, Diamond Terrace, London SE10.



A better place to boldly go

JIM Head, leader of the Voyager satellite camera team, thinks the images are "absolutely incredible". Probe maps out Earth-like moon, July 12). Torrence Johnson reckons they make Ganymede "even more exciting". Donald Gurnett thinks it "probably has a tenuous atmosphere". What a surprise. They're hardly going to be "The whole thing's a waste of money, please fire the lot of us." We don't expect any better from them, but when Tim Radford calls the journey Voyager "heart-in-the-mouth stuff", what does he think he's talking about? It's only a lump of metal. He should be asking: "What's the point?" I am sick of reading stories of how there isn't the money to solve the problems of poverty while Tim Radford and his ilk perform an elaborate PR job on the second-biggest waste of money (war). If we ever been (after war), I had money to chuck around, I might be in favour of space exploration, but we haven't. It's time we were told where this space exploration could be leading, because I don't bring enough to foreman and a sharing of resources which could lead to world peace. Oliver Cox, 3 Wynnstay Grove, Fallowfield, Manchester M14 6XG.

Orchestra pits

WHILST leader of the Philharmonia some years back, I was in rehearsal with Sir Edward Heath (Letters, July 15-17). There was a considerable amount of confusion, after which one of my colleagues said it all when he shouted "Order, Order!" Rehearsing the Ecce Symphonia, the influence of Klemperer, Karajan and Guilini vanished alarmingly, but a quick discussion during the tea-break between the first oboe, first trumpet and myself soon established a credible opposition. We had comparable experience with our then principal conductor, but his big advantage over Sir Edward was that he was a gifted amateur. Peter Thomas, Leader, City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Paradise Place, Birmingham. Please include a full postal address and daytime telephone number. We regret we cannot acknowledge receipts. We may edit them; shorter letters are more likely to appear.

The adventures of Tom Sawyer

TOM Sawyer, general secretary of the Labour Party, has recently aired his views on party re-organisation (Outbreaks of dissent conceal inner discipline as Labour paper looms, July 2). This is not a mere internal matter, because the Labour Party has traditionally been a voice for the poor, the unemployed etc. and what Sawyer appears to want to do is to close it down as an autonomous, democratically organised movement. He plans to replace the NEC with policy forums. These currently exist. Nobody knows who is on them; the members do not represent anyone; they do not report back to anyone; they are not allowed to elect their own chair or minute-taker; and they are not allowed to vote on anything. The NEC itself will be "restructured", ie the likes rigged so leftwingers like Dennis Skinner and myself can't get elected. And it will be confined to purely "administrative functions". Sawyer talks admiringly about the lack of dissent in the Tory Party. But it was Mrs Thatcher's autocratic leadership style, and the lack of internal democracy in her party, that allowed her to bulldoze through the poll tax. Diane Abbott MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

A Country Diary

DRINGWALL: The sighting of wild goats next to the A9 just south of Inverness reminded me of a meeting of the Highland Goat Club, held in conjunction with the Orkney Goat Club, at the Dingwall Auction Mart not far from Inverness. The success of the show and the fact that entries were up on previous years, with 109 entrants from 18 different exhibitors, was in no small part due to the efforts of the secretary, Douglas Scobie, and many others. The breed names — such as Toggenburg, Saanen and Alpine — were fascinating, as were the goats' individual names, such as Rowangate Dinglebell and Tweedside Scilla. I had jokingly said that I would take one of my African pygmy goats, Trivia, along but, apart from the fact there was no class for the breed, as soon as I saw the standard of turnout there would have been no way I could have prepared Trivia to anywhere near the standard of goats at the show, which were immaculate. The judge was Mr G Godfrey, all the way up from Lincolnshire, and I would not have liked to have been in his shoes choosing all the winners of groups and classes, with prizes such as certificates, rosettes, cups, bowls and shields. The enthusiasm was almost infectious as I watched the judging, and then walked round to see each goat in its spotless enclosure. At one stage, a local reporter persuaded me to hold one of the nannies whilst a photograph was taken. With a beard as long as mine, the caption in the local newspaper was appropriate. It seemed strange to find only one goat at the show with horns but I was assured that horns can be dangerous when goats are being handled. I was taken to task for calling the goats "nannies" and "billies", but the judge told me that the terms "bucks" and "does" had invaded us from America. I will continue to call them "nannies" and "billies" and will start a campaign to reverse this Americanism. RAY COLLIER

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Handwritten signature or mark at the top of the page.

Diary
Matthew Norman

THE annual search for the country's most amusing press officer or press officer appears to be over. A medium-sized package, about right for an answering machine, arrived here yesterday morning, addressed to our personal-finance editor, Margaret Hughes. It came from pensions firm Scottish Life, and in it was a pigeon. A homing pigeon, in fact. In a "Yours faithfully" letter, he introduced himself as Donald, and invited Margaret (one of 77 journalists to receive a pigeon) to a press conference on August 13. Although the box spoke of being "RSPCA-approved", the society is furious — a response which has John Allison, at time of writing Scottish Life's marketing director and the man who approved this brainwave of London PR firm Claren, don, "disappointed and sad". In the hope of cheering him up, we have taken the liberty of putting some extra holes in Donald's box (the bird vacated it and flew off shortly after). Even now, with the words "dead fish" replaced by a delicious herring to Mr Allison in Edinburgh, with our warmest compliments.

ALSO despatched yesterday was the very first Bolmondely Relief parcel. In it were the following items of clothing, purchased from Age Concern. For Mrs Virginia Bolmondely: stretchy white gloves (50p) and matching white plastic handbag (£2.99), and a turquoise and silver shift dress (size 34); and for poor Bolmondely: an eccentric black bobble hat (100 per cent tartan acrylic; £1), a spotty blue and white bow tie (10p), and a green and white sub-Pringle woolly waistcoat (£4.99). No price appears for the dress, since it was donated from her private wardrobe by my colleague, Emily Barr. Farouls such as this will be sent out regularly to the Bolmondelys (the next one will contain a pot of Gentlemen's Relish) until the new pay rises take their combined income above its current mark of nearly £110,000.

WITH the shadow-cabinet elections upon us, one MP views the frenzied plotting with amusement. Ken Livingstone even recalls how, one year, a colleague came over to him to say "I voted for you, Ken" ... an achievement he pointed out, since Mr Livingstone wasn't actually standing that year.

MANDY Mandelson, MP: An Apology. In yesterday's Diary, it was stated that, after a brief dispute with a Guardian writer at a civil-service reception last week, Mr Mandy Mandelson gave voice to the phrase "Nurgh-nurgh-nurgh-nurgh-nurgh-hhh" — a claim Mr Mandelson denied through his spokesman Oofy Wegg-Prosser. We now learn that we were indeed mistaken ... there were, in fact, only five "nurghs" and not six. We apologise to Mr Mandelson for any distress.

THE noble Lord Archer and his wife Mary are interviewed in this week's Hello! magazine, and a splendid read it is too. It is intriguing to learn, for example, that Lord Archer is no longer interested in making money, while Mary, a former director of Anglia TV, says that Jeffrey still hankers after a government position. Perhaps he might yet achieve it, for in his life he seems finally to have come to a measure of self-knowledge. When asked what has kept his marriage going for 30 years, Lord Archer said: "Probably the fact that we don't see that much of each other."

ALL those shocked by Princess Diana's in-laws' temper tantrum on Tuesday, when she ditched almost 100 offer charities in a bid to punish the Queen for removing her HRH, are hereby referred to Tuesday's Daily Mail. There, on page eight, same and rational Paul Johnson described Diana as "the sunniest woman I've met". Yep, it looks like the Nostra damus de nos jours has done it again.



Mr Brown's fear about the future

IS LABOUR ready for government? To judge from the performance of Gordon Brown, the answer must be no. There has seldom been more ridiculous agitation from a minister's reaction to yesterday's leaked document, which makes the sensational disclosure that the Treasury is thinking about the future. Mr Brown was devastated to discover that this thinking was going on "behind closed doors". Can he be that innocent? He was appalled that the thinking encompassed radical scenarios for the welfare state. Are these really supposed to be deleted from the agenda of the governing classes? Mr Brown's answer to both questions appears to be yes. His vehemence rose far above cheap politics. He was at his most thunderously disgusted. Evidently, he believes that civil servants have no business thinking the unthinkable. And he imagines that conducting such work in private is a crime against the constitution. This is the dismal paradigm our politics now follows.

The leaked document is, on the contrary, reassuring. We learn that the Treasury has not been pummeled into brain-death. In some part of its operations, it sets bright young stars the task of imagining the future, especially the future of the state, for which it is economically responsible. This would seem an elementary precaution. With constrained resources, expanding welfare demands and the danger of falling provision, an insurance-based approach in the next millennium cannot be axiomaticly discounted. User-payment for higher education is not an anachronistic insanity. Private funding for roads is not off the edge of the map of democratic options. The only matter for regret is that the Treasury's speculations about uncomfortable matters were leaked. They should be published in full. For they expose how tentative is the thinking of politicians prepared to engage in. These are real issues, yet politicians are too nervous to address them outside the closed doors Mr Brown piously deplors. Even behind doors, we must infer, Labour is at least inclined to do so.



No one wants the cake

IT'S RICHLIY ironic that the City establishment should now be trying to resurrect the Tory dream of turning Britain into a share-owning democracy. Yesterday, a Stock Exchange-led initiative headed by some of the City's most influential figures revealed their long-awaited study on the future of the small investor. Urging radical measures, such as the compulsory teaching of personal finance in schools, the group's chairman, Sir Mark Weinberg, sees the encouragement for ordinary people to build up personal wealth in shares as a means of compensating for the erosion of social-security provisions. It is a controversial agenda in which the Treasury has been involved, and seems certain to prompt political debate over the extent to which individuals should be responsible for their financial security. But what the Weinberg Committee does not explain is why it still believes in the ownership of private share-ownership when more than 15 years of give-away privatisations have signally failed to

We keep hearing about the need for 'fair play'. But don't confuse this with the meritocracy our politicians call for, says **Francine Stock**; the market is never fair

Fair in love and war?

THERE'S nothing like a collapsed marriage to bring out a judgmental streak. The split of Charles and Diana has been accompanied by a chorus of commentary. Everyone from the Queen to the Daily Mirror (and a million unheeded advisers) has thrown in their offering. To keep the ERM or not, gassing camps or free speech, £15 million too much or too little — what's right, what's fair? Anthony Julius, lawyer to the Princess, has received a bizarre press for doing his job spectacularly well. In one offensive reference, the Daily Telegraph compared his approach to that of Fiona Shackleton, Prince Charles's solicitor, who was described as inhabiting "the upper-class world". Julius,

As an account of the future terrain, however, it tells truths that no politician can get away from.

In the Conservative Party, arguments about the future of the state will loom large, especially if the party is out of power. Kenneth Clarke is aware of this. In opposition, it is not only Europe that will tear the Tories apart, perhaps making his position impossible to sustain. The case for the minimal state, along the lines of one of the Treasury's futuristic possibilities, will divide neo-Thatcherites from One Nationites more sharply than at any time in the last 17 years. Freedom from office will liberate souls in the party who are ideologically, if covertly, committed to a radical attack on orthodoxies they have hitherto defended.

MR CLARKE sees his mission as being to make sure the minimal state does not come to pass. If the Treasury's analogy with New Gingrich's followers in the US is apt, he will win the argument. Gingrich's Contract With America has taken two years to live and almost die, its architect discredited, his party divided, his project incapable of achieving the political support he once thought was in the bag. A Contract With Britain, as the young Treasury speaks about their intentions. Secretary will abound, insidiously an unpropitious choice of imagery.



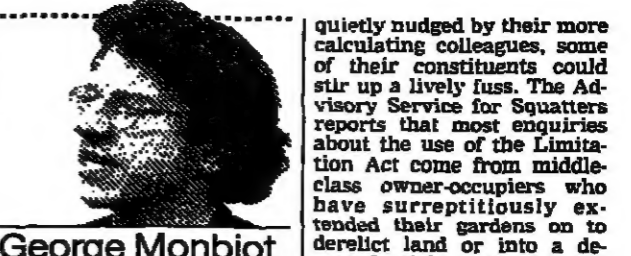
A man's home is someone else's castle

George Monbiot

FOR the last fortnight, the assorted voices of reason have been in uproar about the strange case of the owner-occupier squatters. In 1977, Jim Sykes and Sheila Fahy slipped into a derelict house in Islington. They lived, according to the Daily Mail, like ghosts, neither tending the front porch nor putting out rubbish, but they registered the property as their address. They acquired "possessory title" and, a few weeks ago, sold the house for £103,000.

The case has now been complicated by the discovery on the part of the sedulous Sunday Times of the original owner of the property, some poor old chap who, like Tess of the D'Urbervilles, was probably a perfectly happy man until he was told he should have been entitled to greater things. He said he would be seeking legal advice to establish his rights. He does not seem to have much of a case. According to the 1960 Limitation Act, "No action shall be brought by any person to recover any land after the expiration of 12 years from the date on which the right of action accrued to him". Mr Rosmond let his chance slip by in 1969.

For all Mrs Thatcher's hopes, we have dismally failed to become a shareholding democracy, argues Patrick Donovan. So why does the Weinberg report think shares can replace welfare provision?



ALL over the world, statutes of limitation were devised to support landowners' claims against those of the dispossessed. But as most of the major land-grabbing in Britain was completed long ago, the progressive way to change the law may be to reduce, rather than extend, the period of limitation. Jim Paton of the Advisory Service for Squatters suggests six years, which would bring law into line with laws governing other forms of property. This might encourage the socially beneficial functions of squatting, ie pulling empty and derelict houses back into circulation. But it really does want to go ahead and repeal the Limitation Act, then let them, and we'll all have fun scouring our family trees for evidence of peasant proprietorship in the 11th century. It would be optimistic, however, to expect the owning occupiers on whose behalf they have been huffing to thank them for it.

George Monbiot presents **Going Back on Radio 4** tonight at 7.20pm



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10 OBITUARIES

Chas Chandler

A giant, gentle Animal

CHAS Chandler, who has died aged 57, will be remembered as a bassist...

Chandler was pivotal to Hendrix's career, signing him to a record deal...



Big noise... Chandler, right, with Animals (from left) Burdon, Price, Steel and Rowberry

ones that put Slade in the forefront of glam-rock and established them as the most successful British chart band since the Beatles.

Chandler went on to launch his own Barn Records and other labels, then in 1976 linked up with the other ex-Animals for a new album...

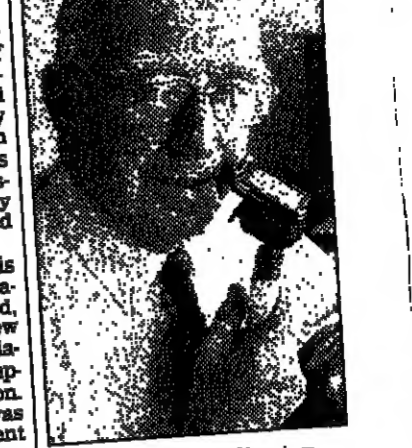
Chandler was pivotal to Hendrix's career, signing him to a record deal, producing the album 'Are You Experienced'...

Chandler was pivotal to Hendrix's career, signing him to a record deal, producing the album 'Are You Experienced'...

The Aussies' Test match special

THE stature of the cricket commentator, Alan McGilvray, who has died aged 85, was never more emphasised than during the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's battle with Kerry Packer's Channel Nine...

It was meticulous in its attention to detail. His rhythm never varied, always up with the moment of action as the bowler bowled or the batsman played...



McGilvray... radio star

McGilvray when he was interviewed before asking him a question, with the resultant scatter of crumbs.

Collaborator's life in hiding

THE death in prison of the Vichy official, Paul Touvier, at the age of 81, will revive recriminations over the French Catholic Church's collaboration with the Vichy regime...

In 1971, Touvier was secretly pardoned by the Gaullist president, Georges Pompidou, after the intervention of Catholic officials.

Following a brief undistinguished period as a conscript before the fall of France in 1940, he was given a dispatch clerk's job at Creaux railway station...



Facing justice... Touvier in 1994

had spared Jewish families just before the liberation was never proved, the affair only emphasised the cardinal's support for the Vichy regime...

Birthdays

- Elizabeth Armitage, sculptor, 80; Lady Bingley, former chairman, National Association of Mental Health, 71; Edward Bond, playwright, 82; Richard Branson, founder and chairman, Virgin Group, 46; David Cameron, cricketer, 54; George Duggan, cricketer, 54; Nick Faldo, golfer, 38; John Fraser, chairman, Ciba-Geigy, 68; Senator John Glenn, former US astronaut, 82; Simon Heffer, columnist, 75; David Hemery, athlete, 52; Elizabeth Jennings, poet, 70; Ewan Kirkwood, actor, 66; Vice Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly, former director-general of intelligence, 81; Dennis Lillee, cricketer, 47; Nelson Mandela, president of South Africa, 78; Michael Medwin, actor, 67; Anthony Miles, publisher, 66; John Naughton, writer, 50; Richard Pasco, actor, 70; Marsha Reeves, singer, 55; Tony Raworth, poet, 58; Nathalie Sarraute, novelist, playwright, 96; Hugh Stephenson, professor of Journalism, City University, 58; Mary Stott, journalist, campaigner for women, 82; Tim Watt, boxer, 48; Lynette Willoughby, engineer, past president, Women's Engineering Society, 47; Yevgeny Yevtushenko, poet, 63.

Death Notices

- ALLOWED William Oger, died suddenly 17th July 1996 aged 78. He was the husband of an ordinary man who was deeply loved and respected by his family, friends, and colleagues. Burial at St. Andrew's Church, London. Family enquiries to Mrs. Oger, 111 St. Andrew's Church, London. Tel: 011 725 7255.

Births

- MORTY (to) Heidi, to Sharon and David on July 17th, a son. Alexander Philip. When babies are born so are grandparents. Please send love and thanks for the most wonderful gift. Love to a first nephew from MORTY and Heidi. Tel: 011 725 7255.

Jackdaw



ANY READER seeking new markets for frozen chickens shouldn't put too many hopes on a striking idea from Down Under. A New Zealand pub, known by the strictly non-litically correct name of 'The Fat Ladies Arms' is reportedly selling frozen chickens to be used as bowling balls in a game called 'Naked Chickies'.

Little loafers

QUESTION: Why don't more babies work? Excuse me, did I say more? I meant, why don't any babies work? After all, there are millions of babies around, and most of them appear to be extremely underemployed. So why aren't babies working? I'll tell you. Walk down any street, and within a minute or so you will undoubtedly come across a baby. The baby will be lounging in a stroller, maybe snoozing, maybe tipping a bottle, maybe futzing around with a stuffed 'Teddy' - whatever.

Royal tuck

THE QUEEN prefers a minimum of fuss and simple food but certain standards have to be adhered to. In addition, Her Majesty is always accompanied by three detectives who must also be provided for. The Queen dines on no more than half a dozen times a year, and always with the same people. She has recently made regular trips to the Princess Royal and Captain Tim Laurence's London flat in Dolphin Square.

New flavours

RAYMOND Coyle, entrepreneur and MD of Ferris crisps in Ashbourne, County Meath, spots a gap in the BSE-free meat market and sets about thinking. 'The thing is', says Coyle, 'bison meat has less fat and cholesterol than beef or chicken. It's very healthy meat and I always felt there was an opportunity for that'.

Competition

CLEAN-cut American sailors in Persil white uniforms walked tall along the streets of Dún Laoghaire. Teenage girls tagged along - some not so teenage - and occasionally you could see a handsome guy with three or four admirers throwing themselves at him. What could a poor sailor do? Was it a reflection on the inadequate performance of the Irish male? Are we so taken with the hurling and the road bowls that we cannot attend to our women? Do our women get so little romance from their men that they must flock to the harbour when the boat comes in?

Bowled over

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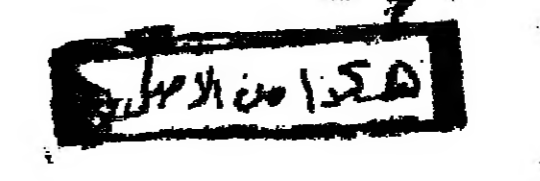
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Biote Wonder firm snubbed. Meseline cheered by cleared Bluewater. Chancell brushes rate cut.



السؤال الثاني

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Telephone: 0171-239-9610
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Finance Guardian

Biotech rights issue flops

'Wonder drug' firm snubbed

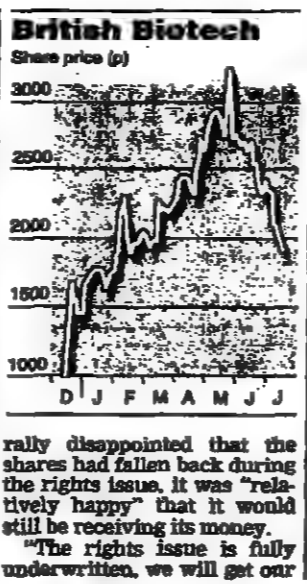
Ian King and Paul Murphy

BRITAIN'S fledgling biotechnology sector was left under a cloud last night after the £143 million rights issue by British Biotech, the sector leader, flopped.

Market sources said that fewer than half of British Biotech's shareholders had taken up their rights, leaving the group's underwriter, Kleinwort Benson, along with some 50 City sub-underwriters with millions of pounds

worth of unwanted shares. British Biotech shares closed down 67p at 1963p, against the 2050p rights price, after earlier climbing above that crucial level. It means that Kleinwort and the sub-underwriters — which include Morgan Grenfell and Mercury Asset Management — will have automatically been left with shares worth less than they agreed to pay for them. Sources at Kleinwort insisted last night that, while the response to the cash call had been disappointing, British Biotech would still

receive its £143 million. Kleinwort is due to give details later today on how many investors have exercised their rights. It is understood that the so-called 'stick' — the term used in the City when shares cannot be placed with institutions at a premium to the rights price — will be auctioned this morning. According to market sources, one sub-underwriter has been left with a commitment to buy some £3.5 million worth of shares, although British Biotech's five biggest shareholders have all agreed to take up their allocation under the issue. In addition, one of the five has decided to show its support for the company by buying more than its entitlement. Last night, a spokeswoman for British Biotech said that while the company was nat-



money, and everything here remains on track," she said. The failure of British Biotech's rights issue marks the end of an extraordinary period in which the shares have shot up from just under 25 each a year ago to a peak of £38.35 each at the end of May, before falling back. During that run, attention has focused on marimastat, the company's anti-cancer 'wonder drug'. Analysts believe sales of marimastat — which recently started 'phase III' trials after which a drug stands a 70 per cent chance of reaching the market — could hit the £1 billion mark early in the next century, although much more work is required before then. At the same time, several British Biotech directors have become extremely wealthy, and Keith McCullagh, the group's chief execu-

tive, and James Noble, the finance director, both own millions of pounds worth of share options. Several analysts insisted last night that, despite the failure of the issue, the sector's image would recover. One said: "This issue could not fail because British Biotech is now such a size they would always get their money. It's too big to fail. If it hadn't got the cash it would not have been able to continue its plans in the way that it wanted, and that would have left it in serious trouble." Others said sentiment towards stocks like British Biotech had been hit mainly by events in America, where technology stocks have been in the vanguard of the market's bull run over the past 18 months and the sell-off over the past week.

Notebook

Clarke needs to curb his instinct



Edited by Alex Brummer

ANYONE who listened to Kenneth Clarke on the Today show rubbishing the kids on his own staff and the cranky right-wingers who drew up Newt Gingrich's 'Contract with America' could not fail to recognise that the Chancellor is one of those rare modern politicians who relies on his wits — not on some text drawn up by his advisers.

It is the same sound instinct which has led the Chancellor twice in 15 months to take on the Governor of the Bank of England on interest rate cuts and come out on top. In July when Mr Clarke ordered a quarter point reduction in base rates to 6.75 per cent, despite strong reservations from Eddie George, he was rolling the dice. Focusing largely on the out-put side of the economy, he noted the downbeat prospect for manufacturing, the overall weakness of growth and the fall in output price inflation. He seemed impressed that wage settlements remained extremely moderate.

Postal error

EVEN as British Energy shareholders count their losses in Monday's shambolic privatisation, unrepentant ministers are preparing a further contentious sell-off. Privatising the Post Office will be at the heart of the Conservative Party's manifesto. The last attempt, two years ago, failed because Tory backbenchers warned that it would be deeply unpopular. But, as we reported yesterday, Trade Secretary Ian Lang is spearheading a fresh attempt to ditch this political log-jam. The latest idea is to split the Royal Mail into 11 regional monopolies, invite private firms to bid for franchises to run them and keep the rural network of post offices safe in the public sector. The result, Mr Lang hopes, will be Tory rebels appeased and the privatisation bandwagon put back on the road. But the Royal Mail carve-up is an awkward hybrid of two other, far from successful, privatisations — electricity and rail. The 12 regional electricity companies have proved to be cash rich, local monopolies delivering benefits to shareholders often at the expense of customers and staff. Even six years after their privatisation, the regulator is dragging them kicking and screaming towards competition. The first by-product of the 26 rail passenger franchisees has been the erosion of important benefits like through ticketing and universal pricing. Neither model has proved effective in isolation. Combined, they are entirely inappropriate to the Royal Mail, which is a highly successful national business precisely because it provides a universal service at uniform and affordable prices. Even those other enthusiasts for postal privatisation, the right wing think-tanks, believe the latest idea to be bizarre. Recognising the benefits of national service, they would prefer to see the Royal Mail developed more like BT where competitors pay access charges to use the network. Mr Lang will be hoping to silence his critics with a promise to cut the price of postage by a letter by through prices went up only last week because the Treasury, desperate for cash, is sucking increasing amounts out of the Post Office — nearly a billion over the next three years. If Mr Lang is forgetting why prices are going up, voters won't.

Heseltine cheered by cleared Bluewater

MICHAEL Heseltine and Leonard Leese chairman Stuart Horner (right) yesterday launched construction of the £700 million Bluewater Park regional shopping centre in Kent, writes Roger Coote. The development, on the opposite side of the QE2 bridge at Dartford from the Lakeside centre at Thurrock, will include 875 shops when it opens in 1999. Expected to attract 30 million visitors a year, it will be one of the last regional malls after a change of government policy on out-of-town shopping. The development by Lead Leese and Blue Circle Industries will create 7,000 construction jobs and give employment to 6,000 staff once opened. The deputy prime minister said it was evidence of the economy's strength and a vote of confidence in the Thames Gateway area, which was "no longer the back doorstep of a capital city which faced Heathrow and the West. It is fast becoming the front doorstep facing the Channel Tunnel, the ports and the rest of Europe." PHOTOGRAPH BY STEWART GOLDSTEIN



Chancellor brushes aside rate cut fears

CITY analysts were yesterday predicting a rate cut as early as July 30, when the next meeting will take place. Mr Cole said the scope for further cuts in rates could soon be reduced by monetary tightening in the US. "The window for cuts is narrowing," he said. The Liberal Democrats seized on the divide to push the case for an independent central bank, to remove monetary policy from political pressures. Treasury spokesman Malcolm Bruce said: "It is now clear that Ken Clarke has dumped his inflation target and replaced it with a re-election target." Monetary policy should be set by a policy making council at a new UK Reserve Bank, he said. In the long run, Mr Bruce said, independence would enhance credibility and lower the interest the Government has to pay on its debt. Over five years, up to £3 billion could be saved, he said. Party leader Paddy Ashdown said the squabbling between the Chancellor and the governor underlined the need for action. "The time has come to take control of short term interest rate decisions out of the hands of politicians."

Young won't stand in way of BA link

THE British Airways alliance with American Airlines will not be blocked by the Government, which will nevertheless protect the interests of smaller competitors like Richard Branson to ensure they are not forced out of business, it emerged yesterday. A plan for an independent tribunal with power "to suspend the fares of a carrier unilaterally" will be submitted by the British Government to the Americans at the beginning of a new series of bilateral talks today.

The plan was outlined to a tribunal, which should have the power to take swift action. He did not know how long the talks would last, but expected they would be completed before the November presidential election. As well as the proposed alliance, the talks will cover how a more open market could be introduced for transatlantic flights. Sir George said it was crucial for British airlines to get fair access to international travellers using the large domestic market in the US, and that Britain should continue to have a strong share of the market. He wanted the forthcoming negotiations to cover access and capacity restrictions at Heathrow and Gatwick. Another government aim was the gradual removal of controls on fares to the US. The Office of Fair Trading is examining whether to recommend that the alliance should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. An investigation by the MMC would take considerable time and there is pressure on both sides of the Atlantic for a quick decision. Sir George suggested that the issue of slot availability at Heathrow was not as crucial as some American carriers, which want access to the airport, have asserted.

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Peers back Takeover Panel's fight against EU directive

PEERS have come out in support of the City Takeover Panel in its battle against a planned European Union directive on the rules governing bids for companies. In a report published yesterday, the Lords' Committee on European Communities said the directive, aimed at standardising protection for shareholders and at providing minimum guidelines on the conduct of takeover bids, should not be adopted. It added that the Government "should strive to protect the position of the panel." Over the past two months, senior City figures have launched a fierce rearguard action against the directive, which threatens to replace the tried-and-tested City Code — the rules applied to takeovers and mergers in Britain. The report argues that any gains in the form of harmonisation across Europe "would be outweighed by the risk of damage to existing arrangements in the UK which are accepted on all sides to be entirely adequate."

It notes that EC Commission officials, in evidence to the Lords' committee, had conceded that the "City Code" was probably the best system currently within the EU. The EU has been trying to revive a proposal, first tabled seven years ago, where members states would each set up separate supervisory authorities to regulate takeover bids, each adhering to a set of detailed rules. The Lords committee notes that adopting the EU proposal would mean the Takeover Panel losing its "extra-legal" status and would probably increase the amount of "tactical litigation" among companies involved in takeover battles and their advisers. Instead, the report argues that the current process of "soft harmonisation" — where member states are already adopting broadly similar rules to deal with takeovers — should be allowed to continue. "If that process needs to be accelerated both the Commission and (EU) Council could give it direction and encouragement by means other than the directive," the report says.

CBI refuses to back any party in run-up to the election

THE Confederation of British Industry yesterday refused to endorse any political party as it launched its manifesto for the next general election, writes Colin Weston. Adrian Turner, director-general of the CBI, said his organisation hoped to have an intelligent dialogue with all political parties. "We are willing to discuss policies but not willing to make a party political endorsement," he said. The CBI's manifesto, Prospering in a Global Economy, is a distillation of previous policy statements which have been the subject of extensive consultations with members. It says the next government should concentrate on creating a stable economy, skilled and flexible labour markets, and be committed to membership of the European Union. Low inflation, continued tight control of public spending, a strong focus on education and training to improve skill levels are priorities, as is an additional £2.5 billion a year investment in transport infrastructure. Mr Turner said the CBI did not want a return to the corporatism of the 1970s. But government "could create the context within which business can be successful."

CBI differences with Labour

- Does not support national minimum wage
 - Opposes windfall tax on privatised utilities
 - Supports Social Chapter opt out, but finds "encouraging" Labour's commitment to resist loss of UK veto through extension of qualified majority voting
 - Awaits clarification on "no penal tax rates"
- ### CBI differences with Tories
- Opposes tax cuts
 - Is unequivocal about EU membership
 - Wants to keep options open on EMU
 - Concerned about capital spending cuts
 - Wants more money invested in public capital projects

Woolwich purchase price goes up with housing market

THE resurgence in the housing market helped Woolwich Building Society increase its profits by 29 per cent to £188 million during the first half of this year — raising the mortgage lender's price tag for any predator by a minimum £50 million to more than £3 billion. The stakes in any bidding race have now been raised from a starting price of about £2.5 billion to £3.25 billion, following yesterday's results which show that gross lending grew by 128 per cent to £2.9 billion, swelled by the acquisition of a Midland Bank French mortgage book. Excluding the Midland acquisition, net lending — after repayments — grew to £1 billion. Lending was buoyant, not only because of competitive mortgage discounts but — with its traditional heartland in the South-east — the society had also benefited from the recovery in the housing market, which has seen the number of households with negative equity halve in the second quarter of this year. But savers paid the price for aggressive discounting on the mortgage front, with depressed returns pushing savings balances up by only £245 million. The society, meanwhile, widened its own profit margin from 1.57 per cent last year to 2.21 per cent. John Stewart, the chief executive, said the Woolwich would be happy to see an end or substantial reduction to mortgage discounts. He said: "It is time that the savers' interests were brought back into balance and we would be in favour of ending big discounts and cashbacks when the market would allow."

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1,975	France 7,570	Italy 2,519	Singapore 1,550
Canada 1,577	Germany 2,465	Japan 1,590	South Africa 6.50
Denmark 6,815	Spain 3,940.00	Netherlands 2,225	Spain 182.25
Finland 6,880	Sweden 2.20	New Zealand 11.75	Switzerland 1,325
Greece 2,095	Switzerland 11.75	Norway 9.70	USA 1.525
Hong Kong 11.75	Turkey 124.80	Portugal 222.00	
India 56.58	USA 1.525	Saudi Arabia 5.81	
Indonesia 3,945			
Ireland 4.95			

Supplied by Midland Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

12 FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

Stock Exchange task force aims to encourage wider share ownership and financial responsibility

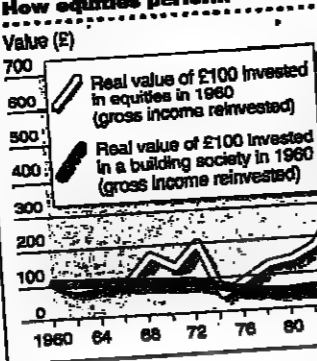
Children 'need money lessons'

Patrick Donovan
City Editor

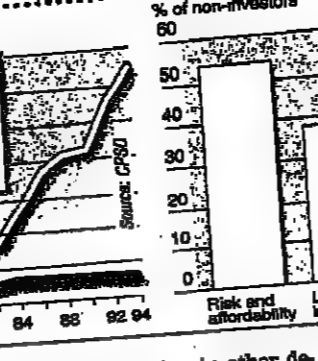
RADICAL proposals to teach every schoolchild in the country how to manage his or her money are to be put to the Government by a Stock Exchange task force set up to look at ways of turning Britain into a share-owning democracy.

The plans, first outlined in the Guardian, have been drawn up after more than six months of study by a committee which includes some of the City's most powerful financiers.

Share ownership



Why people don't buy them



ingly important because of the squeeze on Social Security funding. The report said: "With the numbers in the main saving cohorts of the adult population forecast to reduce, the state, in common

with the position in other developed countries, may not be able to provide the level of retirement support and long-term care currently enjoyed. The report discloses that although 62 per cent of the

population save, only 26 per cent own shares or unit trusts. Up to 1.3 million people have the means to invest in the stock market but have no equity holdings. "The number of people with

a stake in the stock market has more than trebled in the last 10 years," Sir Mark said. "One in four adults in the UK now owns shares or unit trusts. However, despite the significantly higher returns shown by these investments over the long term, nearly two-thirds of liquid wealth is still held in cash. "If people are to take over responsibility from the state for providing for their own retirement needs, we have to increase the number of investors and to encourage existing investors to put a higher proportion of their money into share-based investments. "Wider share ownership was important to the business community because it helped companies develop customers from their shareholder base and boosted stock market liquidity, he said. Besides advocating the

teaching of personal finance, the task force also advocates: Changes in the tax regime which favours some forms of long-term investments over others. It also wants the simplification of tax affecting quoted investment. Better marketing by the Stock Exchange to help people understand how share trading works. Surveys showed that potential investors are deterred from buying shares because of the perceived complexity of the market. Attempts by companies to communicate better with shareholders. Making it easier for individuals to buy shares in new flotations. However, it supports the controversial removal of a rule compelling companies to include an offer of small shares to all public offerings.

Genes make insurers wary

Rachel Baird

THE insurance industry is appointing a genetic adviser and is producing a code of conduct in the wake of preventing scandal and fending off criticism that it is complacent about the problems posed by genetics. Mark Boleat, director general of the Association of British Insurers, said yesterday the proposed pointment of the insurance industry to keep up to date with genetic developments and interpret them sensitively and accurately. New genetic tests are emerging, bringing the prospect of life and health insurers using them to predict people's health and to help set insurance premiums. Insurers already insist that people reveal the results of genetic tests they have had. The adviser's appointment was announced ahead of a parliamentary debate on human genetics on Friday. A year ago MPs on the science and technology committee accused insurers of complacency about the uncomfortable questions raised by their use of genetic information — such as the way in which people with certain genes might face prohibitively high insurance premiums. The MPs gave insurers a year to produce proposals about how the industry will handle genetic information — something the industry has not done. The Government rejected the deadline but said last month that "the ABI should respond rapidly" with a code of practice for handling such information. The dilemmas raised by insurance companies using genetic test results were highlighted earlier this week by a report from the market research company Mintel, which said that "individuals with family genes may face difficulties gaining employment and affordable insurance cover in future."

Institutions to fight United's board payout

Roger Cowe

UNITED Utilities, the North-west water and electricity company, faces an unprecedented revolt at next week's annual meeting, when several institutional shareholders will vote against the company's long-term incentive scheme for directors.

The row coincides with the launch of a pressure group that will campaign for tighter utility regulation. The Public Utilities Reform Group (PURG) is backed by the public sector union Unison and supported by Labour's regulation spokesman, Richard Caborn. Its launch yesterday was accompanied by research showing that the majority of MPs, some of them Tories, believe that excessive pay and other scandals have damaged the image of privatisation. At least two-thirds of MPs questioned want tighter regulation and believe utilities need to change the balance between shareholders, customers and employees. United Utilities faces a veto of its new directors' bonus scheme by financial institutions who want bonuses to be earned only by exceptional performance, as demanded last year's Greenbury report. One fund manager, who is considering voting against the scheme, said: "Management should be delivering something extra. Under this scheme, they might do very well for not doing a hell of a lot."



A night view of the National Trust's 19th century Waddesdon Manor near Aylesbury, for which Lord Rothschild, management committee chairman, yesterday collected two awards from the Lighting Industry Federation for outstanding lighting design

Embattled P&O chairman sticks to his guns

Outlook

Lisa Buckingham

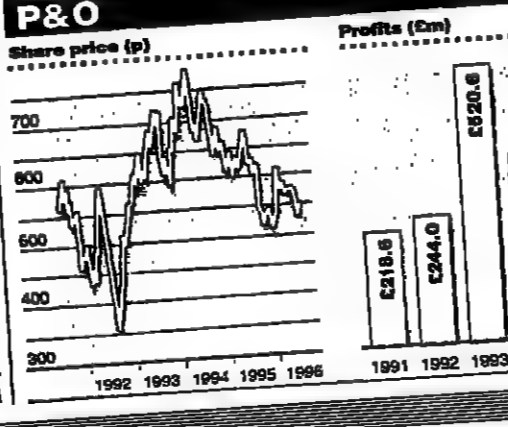
LORD Sterling, the automotive chairman of the P&O shipping and property empire, is a fighter. It was his pugilistic prowess which saw him arrive at P&O in the first place as the man most likely to be able to see off the unwanted takeover advances by Trafalgar House. But, despite this week's breathing space given to P&O by Ian Lang, the trade and industry secretary, which offers the Channel ferry operators the chance to co-operate against Eurotunnel, Lord Sterling will have to muster all his combative skills if he is to survive at the helm. Isolated investors have coalesced into the type of institutional behind-the-scenes campaign that can bring boardroom change. But a number of fund managers point out that Lord Sterling is an altogether tougher target for the disgruntled

than a number of bosses who have been unseated recently. "Don't forget that (Lord) Sterling is still an Establishment figure. He has hosts of powerful friends and anyone rising up against him would run the risk of being highly unpopular," said one fund manager. An intimate of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and an adviser to a succession of trade ministers, Lord Sterling certainly has influence. And, until less than

two years ago, his claim to be one of the most respected captains of industry would have gone virtually unchallenged. There has been no "big mistake" to focus on. More a gradual realisation that, during the past five years, Lord Sterling has presided over a collapse in shareholder value. The company has invested heavily for the long term in ships and other big-ticket items. That has cost a princely £3 billion, but at yesterday's share price of 422p,

the whole of P&O was valued at just £2.9 billion. Lord Sterling can argue that most of the businesses in that 11 divisions which comprise the sprawling group are performing in line with, if not better than, their competitors. But the aggregate as a return on operating assets of just 9.6 per cent last year, when British industry averaged 16 per cent. P&O has decided to cut investment in bulk shipping, sell some property assets, pull out of peripheral businesses and float Soviet homes next year. There could be an extra £100 million to £150 million on Channel ferry profits, but that could be short lived. Eurotunnel cannot go away and will have to make a competitive response. Investors appear to want more. Many remain unconvinced of the commercial logic holding the group's various operations together and see conglomerates as unfeasible. They are eager for creative de-mergers and have become increasingly bad tempered about the group's corporate governance standards, notably the recently installed

long-term incentive plan for executives. The pressure on P&O to come up with something more imaginative will intensify following the publication by UBS transport analyst Richard Hannah of a persuasive case to de-merge some of the jewels in the P&O crown. He says cruise shipping and property should be de-merged, in a move that could improve shareholder value by 30 per cent to £2.9 billion. Lord Sterling is unlikely to fall into line, although P&O is understood to have contemplated something that at one time would have been the impossible — withdrawing from container shipping. The major question, however, is whether big institutions feel sufficiently aggrieved and have the stomach to force Lord Sterling into radical action or out of the boardroom while someone else takes it.



News in brief

Costain defends plan for reconstruction

COSTAIN, the beleaguered construction group, insisted yesterday that the reconstruction plans being put to shareholders next Monday are the "only realistic proposals" to secure the company's future. The company, which issued its statement in response to recent press comments, said the proposals represented the culmination of several months of talks. Earlier this month, Costain announced a £73.6 million share issue that would give a 40 per cent stake to Intra Berhad, a new Malaysian investor. However, Kharafi — the Kuwaiti investment group which together with Saudi-based building group Raymond International holds a 15 per cent stake in Costain — said yesterday that it expected the plan to fail, since Costain would continue to run up operational losses. — Ian King

BR chief will stay on

BRITISH RAIL chairman John Welsby will stay on for a year after a general election to complete the privatisation of the industry or to advise an incoming Labour administration on how the process could be reversed. This role emerged yesterday as the industry set up the Railway Forum to fill the gap left behind by BR, whose many functions have been taken away from it by the private sector. Mr Welsby made it clear that the forum was not a "BR Mark 2", but he argued that the case for the industry needed to be put clearly to government without any issues of political partisanship. — Keith Harper

Frozen food shares slide

ICELAND, the high street frozen food retailer, yesterday saw almost £80 million wiped from its market value after warning that first half profits would be about 10 per cent lower than this time last year. The company, which blamed sluggish sales and tighter profit margins for the fall, also said its position in the second half of the year would be hit by the temporary closure for refurbishment of some 50 stores. — Ian King

Cider's rosy time

HP BULMER, Britain's biggest cider maker, said yesterday that it expects to see continuing growth in the market over the next year. The company, which produces brands including Strongbow, Scrumpy Jack and Woodpecker, unveiled full year pre-tax profits of £27.5 million, an increase of 10 per cent. Bulmer, which bought Devon-based Inch in May for £23 million, said there had been strong growth in the take-home cider market. — Ian King

Underside

Dan Atkinson

THAT error in Prince Charles's divorce papers was not quite the legal irrelevance claimed. In stating that the marriage broke down irretrievably in November 1993, as opposed to the true date of November 1992, Farrer & Co, the Queen's solicitors, may have exposed Chazza to the attentions of the Inland Revenue. Under the regs, the married couples' allowance can be claimed only for as long as the couple live as husband and wife, a state the Revenue considers terminates at the point of breakdown. Charles agreed to pay in 1993, but the marriage really broke down in November 1992. Had the marriage really broken down in November 1992, the Prince could have claimed the allowance for the whole of 1993-94. Should a similar drafting error have been made in his tax returns, the Revenue will be looking for some back-tax from the Wales household. OK, £688 plus interest won't plug the tax gap on its own, but every little helps.

Brother Yank's

happier days

BROTHER Yank's happier days as exemplified by this week's attempts to bully other countries into joining the anti-Castro crusade — is matched only by his foaming loathing of that island's most famous product, tobacco. No doubt the Clintonists imagined that, in Sir Patrick Sheehy, chairman of fat-machine BAT and trader with the hated Fidel, they had found the perfect target for their twin obsessions. Not so. The joke inside BAT is that Sir Patrick, whose love of the weed rivals that of FC himself, is delighted at the US: it is on his entering the perfect excuse not to appear before one of Washington's anti-smoking kangaroo courts.

Reform Club

LET YOU IN? IT'S MORE THAN MY JOB'S WORTH!

SOCIAL exclusion is a terrible thing, as a report on joblessness from the hyper-worship Employment Policy Institute this week made plain. Embarrassing, then, that the authors of the study — Paul Gregg and Jonathan Wadsworth from the LSE — were excluded from the document launch at the Reform Club. Until, that is, the club

Joaned Dr Wadsworth

a tie and Dr Gregg both jacket and tie. How fortunate it wasn't the Athenaeum, or anywhere else like that.

JUST five photographs of Lord Mayor, Sir John Chalmers, grace the 12 pages of the July issue of City View, the Corporation's bulletin by Square Mile residents. By the standards of previous incumbents, this is positively modest. The View's editor has done his best to compensate for the low picture count: right there on the front page is a puff for page three's top item: "Knighthood for Lord Mayor."

THE spec has gone out

for the multi-million pound refurbishment of Windsor Castle and St George's Chapel, but the buy-British message appears not to have penetrated. A product from America's Luton company has been selected for the high-dimming system in the chapel, an exquisite building containing the seats for the Knights of the Garter. At least three British companies make similar, with all due respect, this is not the way for the Royals to begin the post-divorce fight-back.

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Riis punishment points Ullrich to podium

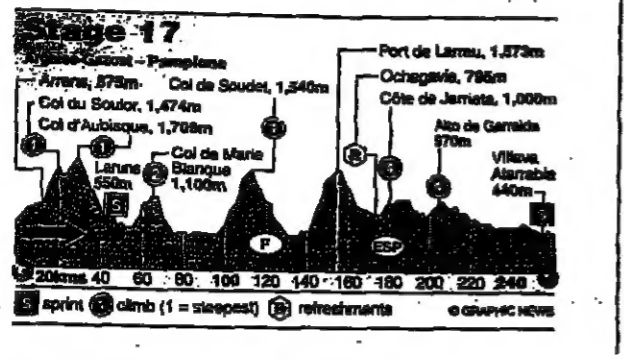
William Fotheringham in Pamplona

NOTHING symbolised the transfer of power in this Tour de France better than the moment yesterday afternoon when Miguel Indurain was invited on to the podium here, three miles from his home. The five-times Tour winner had just finished 8 1/2 minutes behind the yellow jersey Bjarne Riis, who was in such a position of strength that he was able to gift the stage win to Switzerland's Laurent Dufaux.

been neither a stage winner nor maillot jaune. There was a wistful look in his eyes as he climbed to the top step, then the familiar vague smile returned. Riis - who a few minutes earlier had told Big Mig's home crowd, "I have won, but you must remember Indurain remains a great champion" - joined him. To rub it in, the Dane presented Indurain with the bouquet he had been given with the yellow jersey. Indurain threw it at the crowd as if he could not get rid of it fast enough. That Indurain could keep a smile on his face in front of his most passionate fans after two of the worst days of his illustrious career proved the

truth of all the tributes that have ever been paid to his character. The headline on the front of Spain's national sports newspaper Marca yesterday was correct: "Indurain knows how to lose like a champion." He was not the only big loser at the end of a stage as long as a one-day World Cup race run over half an hour faster than the fastest schedule, at an average speed of 23mph over four Pyrenean passes in heat of 30C. With the defending Tour champion in the second group were the world champion Abraham Olano and Switzerland's Tony Rominger, second and third overall yesterday morning, who slipped to ninth and 10th. Russia's Evgeny Berzin, who had come in the yellow jersey with such arrogance in the Alps, finished over half an hour back. Britain's Chris Boardman survived a crash to finish with the "bus" of sprinters, 46 minutes back.

pressure on Richard Virenque's Festina team, who had their sights on moving their little climber - already a certain winner of the King of the Mountains prize - up the overall rankings. Once Indurain, Olano and Rominger had slipped further behind on the monstrously steep Port de Larraz, which climbed eight miles to the Spanish border through beech woods and across baking scree slopes, Riis changed his plan. Along with him in the lead group of eight was his teammate Jan Ullrich, a 22-year-old prodigy from Rostock, who had started the day fourth overall. Riis, for many years a domestique himself, realised that if he kept the second group at bay Ullrich would move into second place. His punishing stunts at the front of the lead group had the rest struggling to keep up, and broke Rominger and the rest. At the finish he was still the strongest, and previous day at Lourdes, Riis might have been expected merely to observe his opponents. But Indurain, Rominger and Olano signed their own death-warrants when they slipped back on the third major pass of the day, the Col du Soudet, under



place in a large stand next to the Indurain family farmhouse. Pacharan, dressed in a heady mix of anis and cherries, local folk-songs were sung and a brass band played. As Riis, Virenque and company dashed for the intermediate sprint, the enthusiastic musicians pumped out the old war-cry of Indurain, Indurain. Indurain, taken up instantly by the crowd, might have been expected to wave to his supporters. But Indurain's parents, wife and seven-month-old son were ensconced on the farmhouse balcony overlooking the road, and as he flashed by there was a

waving of a minute paw from underneath a Banesto sun-bat, and the old familiar grin returned - briefly - to the face of the five-times champion. This is probably all that Indurain will see of his son for now. "We aren't allowed to leave the team hotel," pointed out Prudenico, Miguel's younger brother who also rides for Banesto, "but in any case we'll be back on Monday." It was their father, Miguel senior, who put it in context. "If they've organised all this rumpus for him, he must have done something to deserve it."

William Fotheringham is features editor of Cycling Weekly

Racing

Swinburn looks set for August comeback

Graham Rock

WALTER SWINBURN will learn next Wednesday when he will be able to return to race riding. The jockey has been asked to attend a meeting of the Jockey Club Licensing Committee at Portman Square. A statement issued yesterday by the Club said: "The re-issuing of his riding licence and the implications of his return to race riding" would be discussed after the meeting. Swinburn was resting yesterday at the family's Great Genesis Stud on the outskirts of Newmarket and refused to take telephone calls. "Walter is fine and well in himself," said his agent, Graham Rock, "but he is in good form and looking forward to ride at the earliest opportunity."

If he does return on August 11, Swinburn will be anxious to renew his association with Hilling in York's Judmonte International on August 20. He rode the Godolphin colt to win both the Coral-Eclipse and the big race at York last season. Earlier this month he had to watch as John Reid partnered Hailing to a repeat victory in the Eclipse at Sandown. Swinburn looks sure to miss the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes on Saturday week. Yesterday Maureen Haggas confirmed that Pat Eddy had been booked to ride the racing favourite, Shaamit, in that event. Michael Hills partnered Shaamit to victory at Epsom, but opted for Pentire in the Eclipse and partners that horse again in the Diamond Stakes.

Duffery was asked to ride Shaamit in the Eclipse, but the horse was withdrawn a few days beforehand, having failed to recover in time from the foot injury which had earlier prevented him from running in the Irish Derby.



Road to nowhere... Indurain, who 'knows how to lose like a champion', struggles up the Pyrenean passes into Spain

Big Mig soaks up home brew as fans lay out welcome mat

Alasdair Fotheringham

THIS welcome-home party was ready but the guest of honour arrived late. Miguel Indurain went through his home town eight minutes behind the race leader Bjarne Riis as Big Mig was milking the applause from his fans in Villava, three miles ahead at the stage finish. Riis was receiving a similar welcome in Pamplona.

Not that many of the 3,000-plus supporters lining the route through Villava appreciated the irony. "We've been waiting too long for this day now for it to matter that much," said the vice-president of the local Indurain fan club, "Miguel is still Miguel and it's important to be with him in the bad moments, which is when he needs us. As for the good moments, everybody's there for them." The fan club took pride of

Bath with form

Table of horse racing results for Bath. Columns include race number, race name, winner, and other horses. Races include 2.00 Maiden Stakes, 2.30 Maiden Stakes, 3.00 Maiden Stakes, 3.30 Maiden Stakes, 4.00 Maiden Stakes, 4.30 Maiden Stakes, 5.00 Maiden Stakes, 5.30 Maiden Stakes, 6.00 Maiden Stakes, 6.30 Maiden Stakes, 7.00 Maiden Stakes, 7.30 Maiden Stakes, 8.00 Maiden Stakes, 8.30 Maiden Stakes, 9.00 Maiden Stakes.

Worcester N.H. tonight

Table of horse racing results for Worcester N.H. tonight. Columns include race number, race name, winner, and other horses. Races include 6.00 Maiden Stakes, 6.30 Maiden Stakes, 7.00 Maiden Stakes, 7.30 Maiden Stakes, 8.00 Maiden Stakes, 8.30 Maiden Stakes, 9.00 Maiden Stakes.

Leicester

Table of horse racing results for Leicester. Columns include race number, race name, winner, and other horses. Races include 2.15 Maiden Stakes, 2.45 Maiden Stakes, 3.15 Maiden Stakes, 3.45 Maiden Stakes, 4.15 Maiden Stakes, 4.45 Maiden Stakes, 5.15 Maiden Stakes, 5.45 Maiden Stakes, 6.15 Maiden Stakes, 6.45 Maiden Stakes, 7.15 Maiden Stakes, 7.45 Maiden Stakes, 8.15 Maiden Stakes, 8.45 Maiden Stakes, 9.15 Maiden Stakes.

Redcar tonight

Table of horse racing results for Redcar tonight. Columns include race number, race name, winner, and other horses. Races include 6.45 Maiden Stakes, 7.15 Maiden Stakes, 7.45 Maiden Stakes, 8.15 Maiden Stakes, 8.45 Maiden Stakes, 9.15 Maiden Stakes.

is guns

cal access

Results

RACELINE logo with phone number 0930 1684 and other details.

14 SPORTS NEWS

Soccer Blackburn go into red with bid for Cantona

SOMEONE at Blackburn would appear to have a mischievous streak. That was how it must have seemed yesterday afternoon at Manchester United when one of Old Trafford's fax machines...

OLYMPIC GAMES



Edwards happy to take a local pew

Peter Nichols finds Britain's best prospect for a track and field gold medal in his element in Bible-belt Tallahassee. F JONATHAN EDWARDS isn't happy in Tallahassee, it does not augur well for the rest of the British team...

Doctor ready to quit over drug row

BRITAIN'S athletics team doctor Malcolm Brown may resign from the British Olympic Association medical committee if Michael Turner, the man at the centre of Tuesday night's Panorama programme, continues to sit on it.

Uefa Cup, preliminary round, first leg Newtown 1, Skonto Riga 4

Barton slips up as Skonto leave egg on Welsh faces

NEWTOWN were outclassed by the Latvian champions Skonto Riga in Wales last night, as they slipped to a 4-1 defeat at the hands of their opponents...

The triple jumper feared by Jonathan Edwards wins appeal to IAAF for a place in the US team

Duncan Mackay in Atlanta. KENNY HARRISON, who Britain's Jonathan Edwards believes will be his greatest threat for the Olympic triple jump gold medal, has been given an 11th-hour reprieve to compete in the Games by the International Amateur Athletic Federation...

Rugby League Webster returns to union fold with Bath

Wales at league and union. Webster, unlike the Wigan players Paul, who are joining Bath on short-term winter contracts, has a three-year full-time contract and it is likely he has played his last game for Salford...

Atlanta riders may pull out

ORGANISERS of the Olympic three-day event, alarmed by Atlanta's heat and humidity, will stop the event if conditions become too severe. "If it comes to it we will," said Hugh Thomas, the Englishman charged with overseeing the horse trials...

Cricket News and Scores 0891 22 88+

Table with cricket scores for various counties including Derbyshire, Durham, Essex, Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Northants, Nottinghamshire, Somerset, Surrey, Warwickshire, West Indies, and Yorkshire.

Results

Table with sports results for Soccer, Rugby Union, Tennis, and Cricket, listing various matches and their outcomes.

Baseball

Table with baseball scores for various leagues including National League, American League, and International League.

Evening Racing

Table with evening racing results for various tracks including Brighton, Doncaster, and others.

Cricket Fixtures table listing upcoming matches for various teams and leagues.

Brittle advertisement for a product, featuring the text 'Brittle' and 'Links lead to'.

Golf advertisement for British Open Championship, including contact information and score updates.

Rugby Union

Brittle has role in new TV talks



Brittle... new role

Robert Armstrong and Ian Hall... WICKENHAM made a dramatic U-turn yesterday in an attempt to save England's place in the Five Nations Championship.

Five-year television deal with BSkyB... Brittle, who was left out of the original TV talks, will join forces with the new RFU president John Richardson in the next five years.

The contract with Sky might be ripped up... The League One clubs are expected to take around £22 million between them from the deal over the next five years.

"I have had countless faxes, letters and telephone calls in regard to the selling-off of the TV rights, and people have been dismayed. We will get round the table and take those opinions into account."

Brittle... new role... Hallett... rebuff... talks. He said: "I would be delighted to meet anyone. I welcome discussion and hope to find the solution. But I have had no problems with any personalities in the RFU, only the policy."

Golf

Links in the chain lead to Faldo

THE form horse is undoubtedly Nick Faldo. The current US Masters champion has already won the Open Championship three times and is a strong favourite to make it four when the 125th edition of the event begins at Royal Lytham St Annes today.

Faldo is not only playing well, he is a man who likes links golf and is capable, when at his best, of playing all those sneaky little shots around the greens that courses of this type demand.

He has performed exceptionally at such venues as St Andrews, Muirfield and Royal St George's, all of them the epitome of what links golf is about.

The Englishman also has a history at Lytham. In 1975 he won the English Amateur Championship here, and in the 1977 Ryder Cup he compiled a fantastic record: he and Peter Oosterhuis, paired together for no better reason than a similar inside-leg measurement, won four matches and fourball matches together and then the 20-year-old Faldo went out and beat Tom Watson, the reigning Masters champion, by one hole.

Memories like that tend to help, come the crunch, although Faldo will have to be at his very best to overcome what is likely to be a crowded leader-board this week. The players are unanimous that the lack of typical breezy conditions will result in the field being bunched together with very low scores.

It could in fact become a putting competition, which Faldo would not want and nor, on recent form, would the other leading European contender, Colin Montgomerie. Both players began their careers as brilliant holders of putts inside 15 feet, the kind that must go in several times a round if a golfer is to go low. Both, however, lost the knack and are now occasional in the top-putting statistics.

OPEN TEE-OFF TIMES (Today and tomorrow: GB/IRL unless stated; *amateur captains denote star groups)

0700 and 1140 M Macgregor (GB), A Langston (GB), R Whitson 0711 and 1187 P Lawrie, J Rivera (Sp), B Webb 0728 and 1208 D GILFORD, I BAKER-FINCH (Aus), P STEWART (US) 0738 and 1219 R FALDO, R ALLENBY (Aus), F ZSOLLER (US) 0748 and 1230 R McParlane, B Hughes (Aus), B Mayfair (US) 0758 and 1241 F COUPLER (US), M McCUMBER (US), P HARRINGTON 0808 and 1252 L WESTWOOD, S JONES (US), W RILEY (Aus) 0817 and 1261 M James, P O'Malley (Aus), T Taites (US) 0828 and 1214 J Farnwell (Sw), S Charles (NZ), P Jacobson (US) 0838 and 1228 B LANGER (Ger), T KITE (US), Y KANEKO (Japan) 0848 and 1239 H TANAKA (Japan), S BALLESTEROS (Sp), J MAGGERTY (US) 0858 and 1249 S FAISON (US), G FROST (SA), C MCKEITHEN (US) 0912 and 1253 D Fisher, J Heagman (Sw), DA Weir (US) 0928 and 1408 J Hoss (US), P Senior (Aus), H Clark 0938 and 1420 A O'Meara (US), T Lehman (US), A Foxstrand (Sw) 0948 and 1431 L ROBERTS (US), G TURNER (NZ), S TORRANCE 0958 and 1443 G NORMAN (Aus), S STRICKER (US), J PAYNE 1007 and 1453 B Etra (US), W Weston (SA), P Falis 1018 and 1504 M A Jirancic (Sp), T Johnson (Zim), J Shuman (US) 1028 and 1516 P Brouhaert, D Borrego (Sp), D Love III 1040 and 1528 R Drummond, R Field, M Welch 1051 and 1547 R Chapman, R Lee, M Medley (Japan) 1108 and 1558 I Steel, F Tarnaud (Fr), S McCall 1119 and 1569 D Smyth, A Lehoucq (Fr), A Medley (Sw) 1130 and 1610 S Emerson, S Allan (Aus), M Utton 1142 and 1627 S Darcy, S Murphy (US), S Bowdler 1146 and 0700 R Bossel, T Price (Aus), S Lane (Sp) 1147 and 0711 D Duval (US), W Austin (US), S Lane 1208 and 0728 J Leonard (US), S Ogilvie (Aus), P Mackay 1219 and 0733 S Simpson (US), S Kingston (Aus), S Cope 1230 and 0744 E ROMERO (Arg), L JANZEN (US), C ROCCA (It) 1241 and 0756 W Bladon, A Oldom, B Barnes 1252 and 0806 J DALY (US), P MICKELSON (US), S HIGASHI (Japan) 1308 and 0817 M Jordan (Sw), B Tveit (US), S Arnes (Tr) 1314 and 0828 M DALCAVECCIA (US), C STRANGE (US), P J JOHANSSON (Sw) 1328 and 0838 S BRIANO (US), M MICKELSON (US) 1338 and 0850 V Singh (FI), M Parry (Fr), J Furry (US) 1347 and 0901 Y Herron (US), M McHugh (Zim), A Cella (Ger) 1358 and 0918 A Gilroy, P Healy (NZ), M Brooks (US) 1408 and 0928 P MEDLEY (Sw), E B ELLIS, C STADLER (US) 1428 and 0944 C PARRY (Aus), S LYLE, P AZINGER (US) 1431 and 0948 D Clarke, R Gosden (SA), T Woods (US) 1438 and 0958 S CRIBB (SA), G Topping (Ger), P WALTON 1448 and 1007 J Robson, S Garcia (Sp), T Hamilton (US) 1454 and 1018 G PLAYER (SA), C PAVIN (US), I WOODNAM 1518 and 1028 P Mickelton, M Campbell (NZ), R Medley (US) 1528 and 1040 P Chapman and Siph (Sw), S Bowdler 1537 and 1051 S Grappes (It), C Barrow (Sp), R Todd (Can) 1548 and 1103 G Law, D A Russell, M Florio (It) 1558 and 1118 J Cooney (Aus), S Topping (Ger), K Fukunaga (Japan) 1610 and 1124 D J Russell, D Hooper (Sp), G Brown 1621 and 1138 K Eriksson (Sw), M Heilberg (Sw), J Townsend (US)

Nothing bitter in Price's round

Mike Selvey on the 1994 Open winner who ran into a Spanish juggernaut the last time the championship came to Lytham

IT IS one of the enduring memories of recent Open Championships. Nick Price, at the back of Turnberry's 17th green in 1994, is hunched over a 60ft putt knowing that, if he holes it, it could win him the title for the first time.

The putt ran, ran some more, twisted to the right and, to a gigantic roar, fell into the hole. Price, unable to contain his emotion, pranced across the green and fell upon his knees, his arms raised in a caddy Squeaky Madlin, squeaking so hard that the air seemed to whistle out of him.

Up ahead, at that precise moment, Jesper Parnevik was blowing his brains out on the 18th green, and half an hour later Price was lifting the claret jug.

One course. Three Open titles? Seve's Lytham method.

(Ballesteros' Open: 66/1)

TO WIN THE OPEN Royal Lytham & St. Annes. Starts today. Live coverage on BBC.

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Odds. Includes names like N. Faldo, E. Els, G. Norman, P. Mickelton, C. Pavin, I. Woodnam, E. Coupler, S. Elkington, D. Love III, M. O'Meara, B. Langer.

Ladbrokes advertisement for betting on the Seve's Lytham Open. Includes phone number 0800 524 524 and website information.

Cricket

Weakened Warwickshire rally after Anwar-inspired Pakistanis threaten to run riot

PAKISTAN, who appeared to be enjoying a leisurely net against a depleted Warwickshire attack, met unexpected obstacles on a curious opening day of this Telford Challenge Test match.

Saeed Anwar continued his bulging of understrength county attacks with his third century of the tour, a run-ball 281 which included 100 before lunch.

he has made up for lost time with 588 runs in six first-class innings on the tour. He took a shine to a Warwickshire attack lacking Shaun Pollock and Gladstone Small, both rested for the county's first meeting with the Pakistanis in 22 years.

Advertisement for a movie: "The best action movie you'll see all year. SEE PAGE 11 IN G2"

Handwritten note: "1500 1500"

Sports Guardian

Lytham expects birdie barrage

David Davies on why scores will be lower than the Open temperature

ROYAL Lytham St Anne's, venue for this week's Open Championship, may be brought to its knees this weekend, all for the want of some wind. The best players in the world are unanimous that if the weather forecast proves correct there could be a birdie barrage resulting in some of the lowest scores seen in a major.

The Met Office says an area of high pressure centred over the United Kingdom has brought hot sun and clear skies and, most important, the lightest of breezes. The players say the cut could thus be well under par and the field bunched together as never before in a welter of sub-par scores.

Opinions vary only on the degree of carriage; some players think the winning score will be as low as 18 under, others go along with Nick Faldo who ventured 14 under as a likely mark. Even the Royal and Ancient admits it is worried. Michael Bonallack, the secretary, said: "I am fearful of what is around the corner. The weather is incredible really. Nick Price has just been saying he would like a little more breeze, but sadly we don't have any control over that."

The Met Office is indicating that today's early starters, who include David Gifford and Payne Stewart (7.23am), and Faldo, Robert Allenby and Fuzzy Zoeller (7.33), Fred Couples (7.55), Steve Jones, the US Open champion (8.06) and Severiano Ballesteros (8.50) will have to cope with simple winds, next to nothing in golf winds, next to nothing in golf winds, said yesterday: "You get more breeze opening a car door." The wind may get up later in the day, but only to 10-12mph.

Yesterday the flags over the huge main stand by the side of the 18th green lay limp against the flagpole, and on

the practice ground there was a telling indication of what the players expect. The club with which most were working hardest was the long iron, a one, two or three, because they expect to use a lot of irons off the tee; the course is hard and bouncy, and driver shots could run off into the rough.

Paul Azinger, a former US PGA champion, was disappointed by the lack of even a breeze yesterday and said: "Wind needs to be a big part of the hazard of playing a links course. Lytham is playing short and it is crucial for it to have a wind. Most courses have four defences, wind, water, sand and rough, and if you take away the first two the course is close to defenceless."

Tom Watson, who has had to go home with a shoulder injury this week, once said that St Andrews without a wind was "as defenceless as a naked lady and as much challenge as a promiscuous one". He would have recognised much of the St Andrews about which he spoke in Lytham this week.

Certainly Janzen feels that if there is no wind there will be "a ton of guys up there with low scores". And if that is the case "someone, on Sunday, could come out and shoot nothing and win from miles back". The American got up in two at the three long holes yesterday, hitting a drive and two-iron to the 6th, a drive and three-wood to the 7th, and a drive and three-iron into the 11th.

David Fabery made the point that the best players in the world are here — the Sony rankings say this is the strongest field of the greens unless the speed year — and running at about 8ft — slow for a professional — on the Stimpmeter, a device for measuring the speed of a green. "Unless they get them faster," he said, "everyone will hole

everything." Fabery was due to play his practice round with Sam Torrance, Wayne Riley and Richard Boxall, a fourball that could close any bar in the country. Paul Broadhurst, capable of

bursts of low scoring and joint holder of the record for one round with a 58 at St Andrews, recognised the problem but said, with a touch of cynicism: "They'll put the pins in the bunkers to protect

the course." Mark James agreed, but still predicted a winning score of 12-14 under par which, as Lytham has a par of 71, is remarkably low. Sandy Lyle thought there could be the best scoring overall, seen at an Open for a long time. "There will be a lot of depth to the scoring too," said the man who first played at Lytham in 1976 as a 17-year-old. He was also at Jacklin's Open in 1969 and when the new champion threw his winning ball into the stands it fell a mere 18 inches from Lyle's outstretched hands.

More golf, page 15



Over the top... Greg Norman and Ernie Els unravel the mysteries of the 6th at Lytham yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Hustlers, high humidity and a lot of bottle



Frank Keating

IT STANDS as tall as Big Ben, as unmissable a landmark as the dome of St Peter's in Rome. It is a gigantic Coca-Cola bottle, a garish, winking-lit concrete edifice that jags high into the Atlanta sky. Welcome to the Centennial Olympic Games. Oh to be in Athens now that the centenary is here. The Greek capital, re-founders of the faith in 1896, should have done the honours, of course, but the twin gigantism of Coca-Cola and the Olympic movement jockeyed them off.

"Of course we are still bitter about not being in Athens for the centenary," said one of the Greek athletes, "but money and fuzzy drinks are what counts in sport these days." Atlanta was cloudy yesterday, but the humidity battered the down unremittingly on the sweltering city as the traffic jams across its myriad spaghetti junctions danced in a smoggy, mirage-like haze.

A dozen or so modern skyscrapers and that Coca-Cola phallus dominate the skyline, but on closer inspection the heart of downtown Atlanta is a nondescript panoply of parking lots, broken-down buildings and vacant scrubland. It has the look of 1950s London before the blitz had been cleared up, but with two days to go Atlanta reflects little of London's post-war high spirits. There is no carnival atmosphere, no buzz, none of the feeling we experienced four years ago in bonny Barcelona that the greatest show on earth had touched town.

Hucksters line the sidewalks by the hundreds with tables and temporary plywood stalls. They sell drinks out of cans, cheap penny souvenir knock-knacks and the inevitable T-shirts. An IOC member, Canada's Dick Pound, looked on with distaste. "If you have thousands of unofficial street vendors you totally devalue the Olympics and create commercial clutter," he said. But Atlanta's business is doing business.

"Shalom y'all" said the sign outside the bagel store. "Try our exotic meals — alligator, emu or bison" a restaurant advertised, attempting to invoke some global spirit, I suppose.

Coca-Cola, the biggest business of all, announced that its vast Olympic marketing strategy had helped "the product grow more than twice as fast as the rest of America's soft-drinks industry in the second quarter of the year."

The Atlanta conglomerate was "going at a real healthy clip as a direct result of our Olympic activities, which are manifest," said Coke's chief executive Roberto Goizueta, announcing a 17 per cent increase in net income to \$1.05 billion (\$877 million).

Coca-Cola is the biggest of the 1996 Games' 12 private-sector sponsors. The other 11 are each paying \$40 million for the privilege. One of those is the Visa credit card. A Tanzanian journalist, needing to send an important fax back home, changed his precious travellers' cheques into dollars and presented them at the fax office. Sorry, he was told, you can send a fax only with a Visa card. No card, no fax. These are the cashless Games. They are big business. And business is business.

In the athletes' canteen, another culture-shocked African shook his head in disbelief as he saw platefuls of almost untouched food discarded. "It is utterly incredible to us to witness so much good food being thrown away," said Methunga Jesse, Lesotho's team manager. "In many African countries people would be killed for being so wasteful."

"All our team come from humble rural farming families. We grow our own food and live on it. It is truly shocking to us to see people here pile their plates high for their dinner, leave it in front of them and allow it to be thrown away."

He would be more shocked to learn that a huge fee had been paid by the man who won the waste-disposal rights to this modern Olympiad. THERE is a big-bucks deal behind every aspect of this five-ring circus, from waste disposal to Linford Christie's appearance on the start-line. Only yesterday a proud blast of public-relations trumpets signalled the news. Lord help us, that "the Atlanta facility of Smithline Beecham has won the IOC contract to do the drug-testing at the Paralympic Games for the disabled". "Parathletes are much less sophisticated than regular athletes," said Dr Michael Ridding, the International Paralympic Committee's medical officer, "so we are far more likely to catch them cheating. We plan to do over 500 tests, many more than we did in Barcelona."

There's progress for you.

Sky 'ready to go pay-per-view on soccer at £14 a match'

Andrew Gull

SKY Television is likely to be screening Premiership matches on a pay-per-view basis by next year, the Aston Villa chairman Doug Ellis said yesterday.

He forecast that the Rupert Murdoch-owned station would show 10 games each week from the beginning of the 1997-98 season and that viewers would be charged up to £13.99 for some matches.

He said Sky would experiment with a series of high-profile "trial" games before introducing the system across the Premiership. "The whole 20 clubs will be offered on pay-per-view but it will be restricted to away games," he said.

In other words, supporters of a club could watch their home games on the normal Sky Sports service but would pay extra to watch the away matches. "It is the viewers' privilege and they can pay it or not pay it," Ellis said.

Sky's proposals have prompted fears that the station will try to sew up exclusive broadcast rights to football, blacking out radio coverage. Jenny

Abramaky, the former controller of Radio 5 Live who now runs the BBC's continuous news services, said: "We know Rupert Murdoch has an ambition for 500 TV channels and wants to broadcast simultaneously every league match. If he does, and some are already doing, I cannot believe he would not try to ensure there is no radio competition."

She said Radio 5 Live had already struggled to win rights to broadcast Sky Sport's first pay-per-view event, the Bruno-Tyson heavyweight fight from Las Vegas, which attracted a record night-time radio audience of three million. "It will get worse as the battle for sports rights goes on."

The immediate future was safeguarded because 5 Live began a four-year Premiership contract last season. Ellis said: "I would go along with any demand for no national broadcasting but I would not ban local broadcasting."

James Boyle, the new controller of Radio 4, plans to review Test Match Special's slot on long wave in response to listeners' protests about "endless cricket".

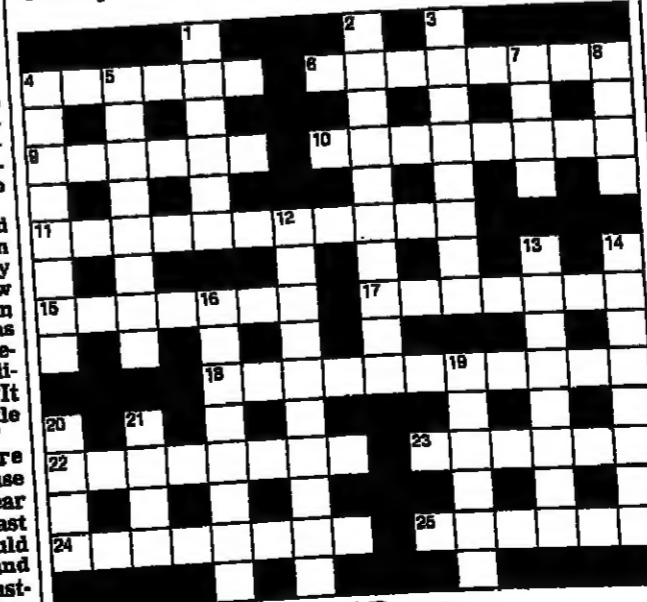
This is not the Paris of dreaming artists but of young people who never read the papers and seem prepared for a life clinging on to the skirts of a vaguely hostile world. Derek Malcolm on Les Apprentis



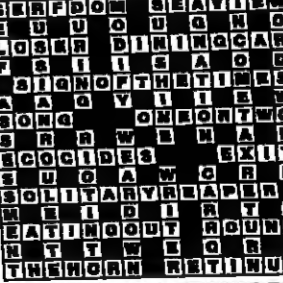
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Guardian Crossword No 20,708

Set by Orlando



- Across**
- 4 Preserve a road report that's false (6)
 - 6 Greek poem about Irish assembly that is extremely honest (3,5)
 - 9 Little Tommy's grub? (6)
 - 10 Stern dynasty preparing for war again? (6)
 - 11 Instinctive response of good German with reference to battle (3,5)
 - 16 An Asian city managed to make progress (7)
 - 17 English trees? Humbug! (7)
 - 18 Mountaineer's scrambling list (11)
 - 22 Lone Royalist in disguise (8)
 - 23 Champ with his heart in a German city (6)
 - 24 Outragous lingoism? (8)
 - 25 Father taking others out for a meal (5)
- Down**
- 1 Cheese, we hear, in cooler (6)
 - 2 It looks ill (3,4,3)
 - 3 Cresting new fruit (8)
 - 4 Class act in play, say, or end of play (8)
 - 8 It can be addictive in a French city, love can (8)
 - 7 One attempt in the same place (4)
 - 8 Accommodation for squad's last soldier sent back to second front (4)
 - 12 Agree payment for acting together (10)
 - 13 Church based initially on a rock-forming mineral (8)
 - 14 Consumer magazine about end of migration thanks returning bird (6)
 - 16 A piece of music that's finished — true composition (8)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,707

- 19 Sharpness given by a copper getting in the last word in prayer (6)
- 20 From sofa to settle? (2,2)
- 21 Changeable island (4)

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